

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Doctor's orders
A government report
calls for major reform
of the health service

Prize...
Spectrum looks at the
making of a Booker
Prize winner

...guise
Inside a new motor
show model

Iced...
A Special Report finds
there is more to the
Alps than winter sports

...diamonds
Can Penny Chuter revive
Britain's rowing prestige?
David Miller reports

**BA may be
sold off
year early**

The Government hopes to
privatise British Airways next
summer, a year earlier than
planned, because of the improving
profits of the state airline
and mounting union opposition
to selling off British Telecom.

Triple murder
A Sheffield solicitor, his wife
and son were found stabbed to
death hours after a wedding
reception for one of their
daughters ended at their home.

Carson reported



Willie Carson, resuming riding
at Nottingham after a 12-day
suspension, was reported to the
Jockey Club for careless riding
after My Aiking was
disqualified.

Manx freepoint

The Isle of Man is to launch the
first freepoint in the British Isles
on November 9 to allow the sale
of duty-free goods.

DeLorean plea

US defence lawyers are
demanding that all charges
should be dropped against Mr
John DeLorean after a video
film of his arrest was shown on
television.

Changing China

China's Army has adopted a
smart new look, and the works
of Chairman Mao have been
dropped from the Communist
Party's list of required reading.

Ulster case fails

A Crown case against eight men
accused of serious terrorist
crimes collapsed in Belfast
when Patrick McGurk, an
alleged IRA informer, refused to
testify.

Rush for Gulf

Mesa Petroleum, the Texan
group, is continuing to buy Gulf
Oil shares and it now has at
least 10.8 per cent of the US
company.

Renault recruit

Derek Warwick, the British
motor racing driver, has left
Toleman and joined Renault,
where he will partner Patrick
Tambay next season.

Leader page 13
Letters: On farm tenants, from
Mr H. R. Fell and others;
kidney patients, from Professor
J. Stewart Cameron; housing,
from Mr J. F. Q. Switzer.
Leading articles: UN and
Middle East; Disarmament
conference.

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Relief in Beirut at US pledge to keep marines

● The Lebanese Government was
delighted last night to hear President
Reagan's reassurance that the US had
"vital interests" in Lebanon and would
maintain its peacekeeping contingent.

● The French Force will remain, President
Mitterrand announced on his return
from Beirut.

Fearful that the United States
might have been about to
abandon Lebanon after Sunday's
suicide bombing attacks in
Beirut that left well over 200
American and French troops
dead, the Lebanese Government
reacted with delight last night
to President Reagan's
statement that the United States
had "vital interests" in Lebanon.

At the same time, Lebanese
officials were expressing the
deepest concern in private that
the French might reduce their
troop strength in Beirut, perhaps
withdrawing their entire
contingent within a few months.

State radio stations in Lebanon
last night repeatedly broadcast
Mr Reagan's words, which
were taken to mean that
President Gemayel's Government
can now count on the
continuing political as well as
military support of Washington.

President Mitterrand, of
France, arrived unannounced in
Beirut during the morning, held
a series of long talks with Mr
Gemayel and then commented
emphatically that he might
make a statement on his return
to Paris.

M Mitterrand spent some
time at the scene of the
bombing attack on French

paratroopers in the Beirut
suburb of Ramlet el-Baida. He
emerged from the experience
stony-faced and clearly shocked.

All day at the scenes of the
two huge bomb explosions - the
US marine battalion headquarters
near the airport and the nine-story
building which housed a company of French

paratroopers - soldiers of the
multinational force and Lebanese
civil defence workers
scrambled through the masses
of concrete under which dozens
of men still lay crushed. Corpses
were being found in such
numbers yesterday that the
casualty figures were being
amended by the Americans ten
at a time.

By last night the marines had
discovered the bodies of 183 of
their men and believed that 50
others still lay beneath the
hundreds of tons of concrete
that collapsed when a suicide
bomber drove a truck laden
with 2,000lbs of TNT into the
building on Sunday morning. A
marine officer said bluntly that
there was "no hope" for those
still missing.

The French reported 23 dead
but conceded that 35 more were
still beneath the ruins of their
makeshift barracks; they do not
expect to find any of them alive.

Amid the rubble of the
French headquarters, soldiers
could be seen standing with
dark blankets, every half hour
or so carrying them to a crack in
the cement out of which was
carried the broken body of a
paratrooper. The figure covered
in the blanket would then be
taken down to a military
ambulance and driven to the
French Ambassador's residence
escorted by three French troops
carrying automatic weapons.

Piles of coffins waited in the
French compound while at
Beirut airport a forklift truck
had to be used to carry the
coffins of the dead marines and
Navy men, 12 at a time - on to
an American military transport
aircraft.

In some cases neither the
marines nor the French
paratroopers could be sure how many
dead they had found. A marine
major said that "In many cases,
we don't have a whole individual".
Even the Lebanese Press
inured to violence of this kind

Continued on back page, col 2

Reagan insists 'We stay in Beirut'

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

As the death toll from
Sunday's bomb blasts in Beirut
continued to mount, President
Reagan yesterday stoutly
declared his decision to keep
American forces in Lebanon.

"We have vital interests in
Lebanon and our actions in
Lebanon are in the cause of
world peace," he said.

He said the attack on the US
Marines headquarters which left
183 servicemen dead and scores
wounded, was a "horrifying
reminder of the type of enemy
we face in many areas around
the world today - vicious,
cowardly and ruthless".

The President repeated the
assertion that Iran or Iraqians
may have been behind the blast.
He pledged that the US would
make every effort to find those
responsible for the outrage.
"They will not go unpunished".

Both in his speech and in
talks with congressional leaders,
the President sought to allay
criticism that his Administration
was without a coherent
policy in the Middle East and
that the Marines had lost their
lives in vain.

A number of congressmen
have called for the Marines to
be pulled out; others have
threatened to cut off funding for
the peace-keeping operation;
still more have called for the

1973 War Powers Act to be
invoked.

Emphasising that the US
would not be intimidated by
terrorists, he declared that peace
in Lebanon was indivisible with
peace in the Middle East.
Because of the strategic importance
of the region the US could
not stand by and allow it to fall
under the influence of the
Soviet Union.

Shortly before Mr Reagan
spoke General Paul Kelley,
Commandant of the Marine
Corps, left Washington for
Beirut where he is to see how
the American contingent of the
multi-national force can be
protected from similar attacks
in the future.

Additional Marines were due
to fly out shortly to replace
those killed and wounded
during the attack. The names of
the dead have not yet been
released.

While the President was
trying to reassure the American
public opinion, Mr George
Shultz, the Secretary of State,
was on the telephone to the
foreign ministers of Britain,
France and Italy - the partners
in the MNF - to discuss future
moves in Lebanon. All of the
allies have expressed their
determination to continue with
the peace-keeping mission.

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MPs' fears shared by Howe

By Julian Haviland
Political Editor

Freddie Douglas, the role of
the British contingent in the
Lebanon were covered in all
parts of the Commons yesterday
and the responses of Sir
Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign
Secretary, to many probing
questions revealed plainly that
he shared the misgivings of
MPs.

Sir Geoffrey said that there
was no present intention of
changing either the role or the
size of the British force, but he
repeatedly spoke of the urgency
of all parties in the Lebanon
settling their differences by
negotiation.

Sir Geoffrey did not dissent
from the observations of Mr
Denis Healey, Labour spokesman
on foreign affairs, that the
loss of life among the American
and French contingents on
Sunday was "Bound to increase
doubts about the role and
purpose of the multinational
force".

Mr Healey, again speaking
for MPs on both sides of the
House, said that when the
horror of Sunday's events was
still fresh it was not the best
time for taking decisions which
would have long-term consequences.

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A grim President Mitterrand inspecting the carnage in Beirut

New target set for BR cuts

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government set tough
new financial targets yesterday
for British Rail, telling it to
speed up its planned efficiency
savings so that a cut of almost
£200m in the central grant for
passenger services can be made
by 1986 instead of 1988.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary
of State for Transport, announced
that the grant for this year
would be £819m, £40m less than
that requested by the railways
board, and asked it to accelerate by two
years the achievement of its
forecast for 1988 of a grant
reduced to £635m.

This will mean that the
£17,000 job losses envisaged by
the board in its 1983 corporate
plan as the main part of its
efforts to achieve the 1988
target will have to be completed
two years earlier if the new
objective is to be achieved.

The announcement brought
an angry reaction last night
from rail unions and the
Labour Party.

Mr Robert Hughes, an
opposition transport spokesman,
said in the Commons that the
reductions could only be
accommodated by service cuts,
line closures, fare rises and
accelerated job losses, and
offered not a glimmer of hope
to passengers or rail workers.

Mr Raymond Buckton, general
secretary of the train drivers'
union, Aslef, described the
move as a tragedy. He said
"It is the public who will suffer
- now two years earlier". There
would be more slow trains and
standing room only, while
industrial relations would fall
to an even lower ebb.

The Government's "objectives"
for British Rail were set out in
a letter from Mr Ridley to Mr
Bob Reid, the new board
chairman, who said last night
that they called for hard work,
and "acceptance of further
change by railway staff at all
levels".

Mr Ridley told him that it
was the board's responsibility
to determine fares, but added:
"Improved efficiency must
make a full contribution to
keeping down fares".

He said it was not the
Government's intention "that
you should embark on a
programme of major route
closures" but asked for the
board's views on practicability
of introducing some subsidised
substitute bus services where
appropriate.

Mr Reid was told to achieve
a 5 per cent profit in 1988 on
the freight business, which the
rail board sees coming into
profit by 1986, and to win as
much freight traffic from roads
as possible, within the financial
target.

Mr Ridley also asked for
improvements to the railways'
industrial relations machinery,
proposals from the board for
more private sector participation
in the development of
stations and railway services,
and the preparation of Sealink
for privatisation as soon as
possible.

The statement of objectives
from Mr Ridley follows the
Government's examination of
the Serpell report. The minister
said it put paid to the "scare
stories" about the network
which followed publication of
Serpell. Mr Ridley told a press
conference last night that the
objectives were tough but went
in the right direction.

Nilsen admitted killing 15 men, court told

By David Nicholson-Lord

Dennis Nilsen, the civil
servant and former probationary
police constable charged with
six murders and two attempted
murders, told the police he
had killed 15 or 16
men and tried to kill seven
more, a Central Criminal Court
jury heard yesterday.

Mr Nilsen, aged 37, showed
the police where he had hidden
bodies under the floorboards of
his north London flat before
dismembering them and burning
the remains or flushing them
down the toilet, Mr Allan
Green, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Green said that Mr
Nilsen admitted not knowing
how many bodies there were
under the floor because he had
not done a "stock-take". He
told the police he had killed
many victims with his own ties,
adding: "I started with about 15
ties. I have only got one left."

Mr Nilsen, of Cranley
Gardens, Muswell Hill, pleaded
guilty to all the charges at the
opening of the trial yesterday.

Mr Green said that the
defence would argue that Mr
Nilsen was guilty of manslaughter on the ground of
diminished responsibility because
of mental abnormality. The
case, is expected to last into
next week.

Mr Green listed 15 alleged
cases of murder and three of
attempted murder starting
December 1978 and continuing
until Mr Nilsen's arrest last
February after human remains
were found blocking the drains
of the house in Cranley
Gardens.

Full report, page 3

'Freed' Richardson vanishes

By Rupert Morris

Charles Richardson, the
London gangland leader, was
on the run last night after
failing to return to prison from
a weekend at home.

It is the second time Mr
Richardson has absconded
since he was jailed for 25 years
in 1967 for grievous bodily
harm and robbery with violence.
He went missing from an
open prison in 1980 and was
re-arrested seven months later.

It is Home Office policy for
prisoners due for parole to be
allowed a short stay at home in
advance of their release. "In
order to ease them back into
society".

His family telephoned the

prison yesterday morning to
say he was unwell and would be
producing a doctor's certificate.
But when police called at his
London home he was not there.

Russia prepares to deploy missiles

From Richard Owen
Moscow

The Soviet Union announced
yesterday that it had again
moves to station nuclear
missiles in Eastern Europe and
would go ahead if Nato
deployed cruise and Pershing 2
in Western Europe in December.

A statement issued by the
Soviet Defence Ministry said
that in view of the fact that the
United States was completing
preparations for the deployment
of cruise and Pershing 2, the
Soviet Union was "compelled"
to adopt additional measures to
ensure its own security and the
security of its Warsaw Pact
allies.

The announcement came as
the Kremlin took stock of huge
anti-nuclear demonstrations in
Western Europe at the weekend.
For the past few months the
Russians have been heartened
by the pressure put on Western
Governments by peace
protesters, which gave them hope
that the Nato deployments
would be deferred, although
they gave warning that the
Warsaw Pact would take "appropriate
measures" if they
were not.

The Soviet statement issued
yesterday that it had again
confirmed these measures. It
said that after an "under-
standing" between the Soviet
Union, East Germany and
Czechoslovakia, preparatory
work had begun for the
deployment of "missile complexes
of operational-tactical designation"
on East German and
Czechoslovak soil.

The statement said the
proposed Warsaw Pact deployment
was "one of the planned
responses in case American
missiles are sited in Europe".
The aim was to maintain
equilibrium in nuclear systems.

Nato argues that cruise and
Pershing are needed to counter-
balance Soviet SS20s, while
Moscow maintains that a
balance already exists and that
cruise and Pershing will upset it.

Diplomats said that the
wording of the Defence Ministry
statement was vague and
that the type of missile envisaged
was not specified. Western
experts warned Moscow would
deploy advanced short-range
missiles such as the SS21 in
East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

● LONDON: The Foreign
Office said last night that
although it was not clear what
the Soviet Union was referring
to, tactical missiles such as the
Frog and Scud were deployed in
Eastern Europe and had been
since the early 1960s. (Henry
Stanhope writes). About 250
Frog and 280 Scud were now
estimated to be there. Moreover
the Russians had already started
to replace the Frogs in East
Germany with the new SS21
with its range of 75 miles.
Nuclear warheads are thought
by the Pentagon to be stock-
piled near the missile sites.

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GENTLEMAN
AFTER SHAVE
BALM
CHANEL

Doucement...

CHANEL
FOR GENTLEMEN

Nilsen strangled, cut up and burnt men he met in pubs, jury told

Dennis Nilsen, a civil servant and former probationary policeman, told the police he had killed 15 or 16 people. It was alleged at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr Nilsen, aged 37, of Cranley Gardens, Muswell Hill, north London, who denies six murders and two attempted murders, was questioned after a plumber had found human remains in a blocked drain at his home Mr Allan Green, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Green said that the remains of three bodies were found at the house, and Bones from at least eight bodies were discovered at a house in Melrose Avenue, Cricklewood, north-west London, where Mr Nilsen had lived.

Mr Nilsen also admitted attempting to kill another seven men, Mr Green said. But eight had not been identified.

Mr Green said that there was no doubt that Mr Nilsen had killed all the men he was alleged to have murdered, but the defence would raise the question of diminished responsibility.

Mr Nilsen's killings and attempted killings had followed a pattern: each victim was a man whom he had met that day, usually in a public house, who had no fixed address and whose disappearance would not lead to any inquiries. Some were homosexuals and some prostitutes.

"They went back to his flat where they would drink and in some cases he would try to strangle them."

Mr Nilsen was arrested last February after he and other youths had complained to the landlord's agents about the smell from the drains. Mr Green said. Det Chief Insp Peter Jay confronted him after the remains had been analysed and said: "I've come about your drains."

Mr Green added that Mr Nilsen had joined the Army in 1961 and had served for 11 years. "Some of the service was in the catering corps, where he learnt certain butchering skills which he put to use in some of the killings."

In 1972, he became a probationary police constable in the Wellesden area for almost eight months. He resigned and became a security officer with the Manpower Services Commission in 1974.

Mr Green said that in November, 1975, Mr Nilsen had moved into 195 Melrose Avenue. Various young men

shared his flat until the summer of 1978 when he began to live there alone.

The first victim was a young unidentified Irishman in December, 1978, Mr Green said.

When Mr Nilsen woke the next morning he found him lying dead on a bed. "I came to the conclusion that I had killed him," he allegedly told the police.

Asked how the man had died, Mr Nilsen was said to have replied: "My tie was round his neck. I think I started off with about 15 ties. I have only got one left, a clip-on."

He hid the body under floorboards, but later burnt it in the garden.

The next to die was Kenneth Ockenden, aged 23, a Canadian. Mr Nilsen strangled him with the cord of a set of headphones in December, 1979, because Mr Ockenden had become engaged in some music, Mr Green said.

He later dissected the body and that of his third victim, Martin Duffey, aged 16, who had been doing a catering course. He was killed in May, 1980. The remains were burnt in the garden with a tyre to disguise the smell, it was said.

'Victim was drowned in the bath'

Mr Nilsen allegedly gave details of several other killings at Melrose Avenue after which he put the bodies under the floorboards before disposing of them.

Asked by the police how many bodies he had had under the floor at any one time, he allegedly replied: "I am not sure. I did not do a stock check or anything."

The fourth victim was William Sutherland, aged 25, from Edinburgh, who was described as a heavy drinker, Mr Green said. Mr Nilsen had said: "We had a great binge and I killed Billy Sutherland." Mr Nilsen allegedly said that his strength increased two or three times after he had been drinking.

The fifth, sixth, seventh, ninth and tenth victims had not been identified, Mr Green said. Mr Nilsen is alleged to have said of one of the strangled men: "I felt I was doing him a favour, I felt his life was one long struggle."

In November, 1980, he invited home Mr Douglas Stewart, then aged 26. He woke up to find his feet tied and Mr

Nilsen tightening his tie around his neck, Mr Green said.

Mr Stewart fought him off and telephoned the police from a public call-box. But when the police arrived at Melrose Avenue Mr Nilsen said that Mr Stewart had assaulted him. Mr Stewart did not proceed with his charges.

Mr Nilsen is alleged to have said of the eleventh and unidentified victim: "I removed my tie and put it round his neck and strangled him. End of day, end of drinking, end of person."

The twelfth victim, Mr Green said, was Malcolm Barlow, aged 23, from Sheffield, a low-intelligence vagrant, who was an epileptic.

One of his intended victims was Mr Paul Nobbs, Mr Green said. They met in November, 1981, when Mr Nobbs was 19. He awoke to find a red mark around his bruised neck, which was later diagnosed as attempted strangulation.

Mr Green added that the police had asked Mr Nilsen if he was a homosexual. He allegedly replied: "In the accepted terms, no, because I have had relationships with men before and after death."

My predominant attraction was male. With every single victim in this case, I never engaged in sexual intercourse with them before or after death."

The thirteenth victim was John Peter Howlett from High Wycombe, Mr Green said: "His death is possibly the most chilling of all."

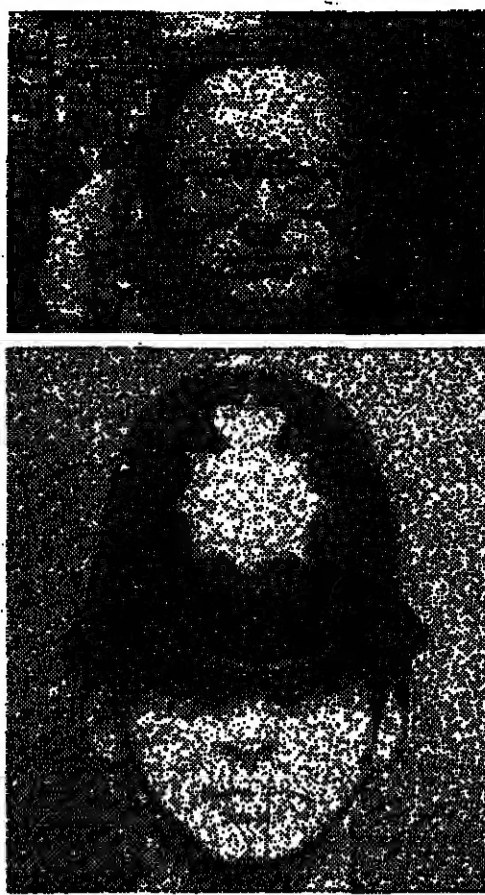
Mr Howlett was said to have struggled furiously as Mr Nilsen wound a loose upholstery strap around his neck. He ended up drowning, Mr Howlett in the bath, Mr Green said.

Mr Nilsen allegedly told the police: "I decided to dissect the body in the bath and flush the pieces of flesh and organs down the lavatory. This proved a slow process so I decided to boil some of it, including the head. I put all the large bones out with the rubbish."

The next two victims were Archibald Allen, aged 28, from Glasgow, and Mr Stephen Sinclair, aged 21, another Scotsman, Mr Green said.

Mr Nilsen has denied the following charges: That on an unknown date he murdered Kenneth James Ockenden that between May 16 and 19, 1980, he murdered Martin Duffey; that between July 1 and October 21, 1980, he murdered William Sutherland; that between September 1 and 20, 1980, he murdered Malcolm Barlow; that between January 31 and February 2, 1980, he murdered Stephen Sinclair; that between November 9 and 12, 1980, he attempted to murder Douglas Stewart; that between November 22 and 24, 1980, he attempted to murder Paul Nobbs.

The hearing continues today.



Dennis Nilsen as a probationary policeman (below), and in London last March (right) and Mr Allan Green, counsel for the prosecution (top).



Racehorse stud owner drops herpes action

A damages action brought by Merion Meade, a racehorse breeder, against a leading firm of Newmarket veterinary surgeons over the death of three mares during an outbreak of equine herpes virus ended abruptly in the High Court yesterday.

Mrs Meade and Miss Breefy Meade, her daughter, withdrew all their allegations of professional negligence against Day Crowhurst, Simpson, Greenwood and Ellis, the veterinary surgeons.

Mr Edward Czele, QC, for the Meades, told Mr Justice Fain: "I am happy to tell you

that the parties have been able to resolve their differences."

The Meades, who run the Ballintober Stud at Carlton, near Newmarket, had claimed more than £100,000 damages for the death of three mares in 1979. The claim included related losses and the expense of caring for sick animals.

They alleged that the veterinary surgeons allowed a Ballintober mare to come into contact with an infected mare and foal at the surgery.

The veterinary surgeons denied negligence and contested the cause of death of two of the mares. They counter claimed for £1,161 in unpaid fees.

Hunt 'mole' accused over moving of foxes

By Hugh Clayton, Environmental Correspondent

The British Field Sports Society admitted yesterday that wild foxes dug from an earth near Birmingham had been taken more than 100 miles to the Humber side kennels of the Holderness hunt. The incident, disclosed in *The Times* yesterday, was filmed on behalf of the League Against Cruel Sports.

But the society insisted that the animals would not have been transported had it not been suggested by a league "mole" who witnessed the incident in 1980 when he posed as a hunt supporter.

The society said that Mr

Christopher Wood, who then worked for the Holderness hunt, had a friend who worked as a terrierman near Birmingham. It added that the league "mole", who used the name Barry Coplestone, offered a vehicle for the journey.

The league denied suggesting the journey. Mr Richard Course, executive director, said that carrying wild cubs more than 100 miles in a box was against the animal welfare principles which guided his organization. "Anyone who works for me will have a proven record in animal welfare," Mr Course said.

Daily Mail readers second time unlucky

By David Hewson

Readers of the *Daily Mail* besieged the newspapers offices and telephone lines for the second time in two years yesterday as the mistaken belief that they had struck gold in the paper's latest attempt to boost its circulation through a bingo-style competition.

Yesterday's *Daily Mail* carried details of a new competition which, the newspaper announced, "is going to make it so much easier to transform your lifestyle to millionaire level".

But for those who battled their way through the jammed switchboard or pressed the newspapers harassed commissionaires there was usually a different story. After failing to persuade *Daily Mail* executives to talk about the competition, I stood in line with a group of readers pressing their claims, only to be told by a commissionaire: "I'm sorry, there's been a mistake. You haven't won anything."

The commissionaire blamed ambiguous wording of the rules and added: "According to the women upstairs we'll be changing them tomorrow."

The instructions for the main part of the contest covered half of the centre spread of yesterday's *Daily Mail*, while the rest invited readers to imagine what they would do with the £1m top prize.

Details of two subsidiary competitions made up the next page. One was a roulette-style game which let the newspapers first brush with its readers in February last year. About 8,000 claimed a £35,000 first prize only to be told that they would all be entered for a draw for one sum of £35,000.

Mail executives refused to disclose their response to the latest circulation war rumpus, but it may bring back Labour calls for some form of newspaper bingo code to be drawn up with the Office of Fair Trading.

Libel damages for Sean Connery

Sean Connery received a public apology yesterday over passages in a biography of him which he regarded as "inaccurate and defamatory in relation to his personal and professional life".

The High Court was told that he had also accepted "modest" damages in settlement of his libel action and would give the money to the Scottish International Educational Trust.

The actor had sued the author, Kenneth Passingham, the publishers Sidgwick & Jackson, and Express Newspapers, which published extracts from the book in the *Sunday Express* last December.

His counsel, Mr Charles Gray, said he did not authorize the biography of play any part in its compilation.

He was particularly incensed by a paragraph which



Sean Connery: Accepted "modest" damages.

he maintained, implied he had been guilty of some deceit in connection with the financial provision made for Diane Cilento at the time of their divorce.

Doctor in £200,000 plot jailed

A Harley Street specialist and pioneer of kidney transplant techniques was jailed for three years yesterday for defrauding a Saudi Arabian health authority of an estimated £200,000.

Stanley Hardy, aged 62, an undischarged bankrupt, of Rampton Road, Cottenham, Cambridge, admitted conspiring with employees of the Saudi Health Office to obtain cash, securities and cheques by deception.

Southwark Crown Court was told how he invented bogus patients, allegedly referred to him by the Saudi Embassy, and then sent the bill to the embassy.

Car plea fails

An appeal by Vincent Hilaire, aged 24, the Crystal Palace football club winger, against a six-month driving ban imposed by Bexley magistrates in August was rejected by Judge Troup at Croydon Crown Court yesterday.

Kerb crawlers

Twelve men were bound over to be of good behaviour for a year by Nottingham magistrates yesterday after a vice squad drive against kerb crawlers in the Hyson Green red light district last month.

Royal pony shot

Concorde, a four-year-old filly polo pony belonging to the Queen, was shot yesterday after it bolted into the path of a car near Windsor Great Park and broke a leg.

Gaming machines curb

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

Cafes and premises used by children in Birmingham will be limited to two gaming machines in future, the city council's general purposes committee decided yesterday. The committee is worried about the increased number of applications to license large numbers of machines in cafes.

The city has 505 permits in force covering 1,513 machines, including 818 in 26 amusement centres which are not covered by the limit. There are 274 cafes with permits for 420 machines and 117 fish and chip shops with 155 machines.

Some forms of gambling ought to be stopped, according to a report to be published this week by a working party of the National Council for Social Aid, a Church of England body (our Religious Affairs Correspondent writes).

It concludes that there is no general Christian view of gambling that mild gambling can be harmless entertainment, but that objectionable activities include the "indiscriminate spread of gaming machines, and the deliberate appeal to excitement and excess" among young people.

Struck-off lawyer faces £150,000 bill

The solicitor who overcharged a client by £131,000 was struck off by a High Court judge yesterday and faces a bill of costs of £150,000.

"He has only himself to blame," Mr Justice Vinelott said when he ordered that Mr Lawrence Davies be removed from the roll of solicitors.

Mr Davies, aged 60 of Queen Victoria Road, Llanelli, Dyfed, admitted gross and persistent misconduct in submitting a "grossly inflated" £198,000 bill to Mr Leslie Parsons, a Welsh businessman and inventor.

After two High Court hearings the bill was cut to £67,000. Set when the Law Society, the solicitors' governing body, took action against Mr Davies, Mr Parsons took steps under the Solicitors' Act, 1974, to have Mr Davies removed from the roll.

Mr Parsons, aged 69, of Green Trees, Llan Hir, Camar-

then, who runs a pickling factory, successfully won a Contention in 1975 over an onion-peeling machine he invented. He was awarded £530,000 damages, but Mr Davies, who acted for him, then submitted a bill for £105,000 which Mr Parsons considered too much. He asked for a detailed account, which came with a new bill for £198,000.

The figure for reading documents was reduced by more than £80,000 when it came to court. It had been grossly excessive, the judge said. The attendance bill contained wholly fictitious times and dates and were added up to inflated totals.

Mr Davies fell far short of his duty as a solicitor and had been unwise to take on a case far beyond his firm's resources. Mr Parsons was entitled to

take the action he did, in bringing him to court, the judge said.

Mr Davies, a former member of the Council of the Law Society and a solicitor for 38 years, is at home, recovering from a heart attack. He worked for a family firm W. Davies and Jenkins, Llanelli, founded by his father.

Mr Parsons was ordered to pay court costs for half a day's argument on whether the Law Society should be liable for any costs of the striking-off action. The judge had earlier ruled that they were not liable.

The Law Society said after the hearing that it unreservedly welcomed an independent investigation by the lay press and would cooperate fully with him in it. It would make no further statement until the lay observer had completed his investigation.

The class war is over.

For years, the world's airlines have been locked in a battle for the business traveller.

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Big closures ruled out

RAILWAYS

The objectives set for the British Railways Board plan that it was not the Government's intention that the board should embark on a programme of major route closures. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the new Secretary of State for Transport, said in a Commons statement following the Serpell Report and the views of the Commons Select Committee on Transport.

Mr Ridley said this put paid to the scare stories about the network on which they had heard so much following publication of the Serpell report. This did not rule out board proposals for changes locally where they made sense. It was for the chairman, Mr J B Reid, to consider new forms of guaranteed and subsidised substitute bus services, where appropriate on local transport and value for money grounds.

The Secretary of State also announced in a Commons reply that the central Government PSO grant for 1983 would be £319m. Subject to adjustment for certain factors to be settled with the railways board. These figures reflected the board's efforts to contain and reduce costs.

In his statement, Mr Ridley also said an efficient railway was vital part to play in the transport system, but it must give its customers value for money. By giving customers the services they want at a reasonable cost, the railway can secure its own future, and the people who work in the industry can find pride in their work.

British Rail has already begun to introduce really significant improvements, to which I want to pay a warm tribute. The firm objectives I am now setting are designed to further that process.

The board's latest corporate plan is clearly going in the right direction and the objectives I have set Mr Reid build on it. In its 1983 plan, the board envisaged a requirement for a central government grant of about £635m (in 1983 prices) by 1988. I am setting the Chairman the

objective of achieving that target - a grant requirement of £635m in 1983 prices - two years sooner.

The freight, passenger and inter-city business set and should work to a commercial objective. The Government believes that the rail freight has strong environmental advantages over road freight. So we want as much freight as possible to go by rail, within the financial target for the business, which is to achieve a 5 per cent return by 1988. The scheme of Section 5 grants for rail freight facilities will continue.

The board's plan envisages an increase in investment from present levels. I shall support wherever possible the business case for investment in the financial and business objectives we have set.

The railways is operating in a highly competitive market. So it is to the board's advantage to obtain rolling stock wherever possible by purchase, rather than by lease, to rationalise excess capacity within BREL as soon as possible.

I have asked the chairman to complete by the middle of next year a review of the options for the future of BREL, including the options for privatisation. All the options will be examined on their merits.

Greater private sector finance and involvement can help to improve services for customers and keep down costs. I have therefore called on the chairman to continue to seek greater private sector participation in the development of the railway's industrial relations machinery.

The statement of objectives confirms the Government's intention to privatise Sealink. And it also calls for improvements in the railway's industrial relations machinery.

With these objectives, the way is clear for the board to manage the railways so that it gives the country the good quality, efficient service which we all want.

Mr Robert Hughes, Opposition spokesman on transport (Aberdeen North), said: The statement offered not a glimmer of hope nor a scrap of encouragement to those who sought a decent service from BR or to those who worked in BR. There was no mention of investment money or

investment objectives. Not a single thing was said about electrification. Rail investment was down to £269m in 1982 when BR said they required £500m annually to prevent the crumbling edge of quality. The £319 PSO grant was £40m less than BR claimed in its corporate plan.

What did Mr Ridley mean by no major rail closures? Did he mean a 10 per cent cut in the rail network, 20 per cent, 30 per cent or what?

British Rail had made it quite clear in answer to the Serpell committee's report that they were totally opposed to the privatisation of British Rail Engineering Ltd.

We must (he said) have within BR a full in-house capacity to provide the modern rolling stock which BR requires. It can provide a basis for exports which can be of great benefit to this country.

Mr Ridley said the statement of objectives was a document of hope for those who travelled on the railway and those who worked on it. If the improvement in performance can be maintained (he said) there is a secure and commercial future for the railway which will be of benefit to both groups.

On the level of grant, I would have thought Mr Hughes would have been delighted to see the need for public money going down as the efficiency of the railway improved.

On BREL, the engineering workshops, Mr Hughes seemed to think a large scale investment was needed in order to help secure exports as well as refurbish BR.

If you are going to export rolling stock it has got to be competitive. What the chairman is asked to do is make sure BREL becomes highly competitive, both so it can win orders from BR and from overseas.

Mr Ian Wright (Stockport South, SDP): An overwhelming case has already been made out of investment in railway electrification. Electrification, particularly of the east coast route, will help improve efficiency and performance.

Mr Ridley: I cannot give a decision about electrification on the east coast route in such a short time. We

Ridley: Improvements.

are awaiting the Inter-City strategy from British Rail. When they put forward plans for "Inter-City" to achieve its expected rate of return then it will be time to consider major investment of that sort.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, C): If I were the chairman I would want to know what the Minister does not tell me anything at all. Are you going to provide the funds to electrify the railway and provide the country with the modern railway we need?

"British Rail covers a higher percentage of its fares than almost any other railway in the world. I am constantly asked to produce my accounts for the railways indicating track costs while my competitors on the roads have all the costs paid out of overall taxation."

Mr Ridley: I have offered to provide my own year-end and 1983-84 in 1986. These are by any standards

Hughes: No glimmer of hope.

sizeable sums of money. These sums of money will be ample funds for the programme of investment which the Government accepts is important. Investment must be directed to improving the purpose and quality of the railway and not just investment for investment's sake.

In his written reply on the £319 PSO grant for 1983, Mr Ridley said that expenditure on renewal and replacement of infrastructure and on redundancy would be "ring-fenced". This would help to ensure that necessary work to maintain a system and secure greater efficiency could go ahead.

Of the total grant settlement, £147m was in respect of the board's Inter-City business, £266m for London and South East sector and £406m for other provincial services, excluding those financed separately by the passenger transport executives.

High cost of old masters

The asking price for a major work of art by an old master was now well in excess of the annual purchase grant given to the National Gallery, Lord Aunson, chairman of the gallery, pointed out during questions in the House of Lords.

The Earl of Gower, Minister for the Arts, said he was acutely aware of the high cost of great works of art on the international market.

I am also aware (he added) how fortunate we are in this country in

that many great works of art remain here in public and private hands.

He added, in response to another question, that business sponsorship of the arts was already running at an encouraging level. Nevertheless, the office was continuing to explore with the Inland Revenue and the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts whether there were further incentives which might be offered in order to attract even more support.

British C-in-C to visit Beirut

LEBANON

The safety of the British troops in the multinational force in Lebanon was uppermost in the Government's mind, and the Commander-in-Chief, UK Land Forces, General Kinross, was going to Beirut to consider on the spot what may need to be done, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in a statement.

He said the Government condemned those responsible for this hideous act.

The contribution to the MNF wanted restoration of the Lebanese government's authority and the independence of the Lebanon. Without the presence of the MNF contingents, it was doubtful whether the fragile ceasefire would have come about.

Our own contingent, at the request of all the parties concerned (he said) has been providing a guard for the meetings of the security committee and for the implementation of the ceasefire.

In the light of this latest tragedy, it was all the more important for all parties in Lebanon to get together urgently to settle their differences by negotiation.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs said desire for revenge was not a good counsellor, especially when responsibility for the atrocities was obscure and uncertain. Reprisals undertaken in the heat of anger could inflict suffering on the innocent and make the situation even more difficult.

Yesterday's tragic events were bound to increase doubts about the role and purpose of the multinational force.

What is clear (he continued) is that it has not kept the peace, though it may have contributed to the recent ceasefire. But this is the 17th ceasefire in a civil war which has already lasted nearly ten years.

The only role of the force is to act as a sitting duck for terrorist attacks.

He hoped the Foreign Secretary could at least give an assurance there would be no increase in the British contingent and could confirm that the British Government was considering the wisdom of making a continued contribution under existing circumstances.

Mr Geoffrey Howe said the initial establishment of the force and participation by a British contingent had been accepted on all sides of the House. Of course, the force could not be expected to remain in the Lebanon indefinitely but it was there for as long as it may be playing a useful part.

But it is important (he said) for not only the government of the Lebanon but the factions and groups there, to understand the urgent need for them to settle their differences by negotiation, which must mean an end to all sides.

There is no present intention of changing the role or the size of the force. It is plainly something which will now need to be reconsidered by all those contributing to the MNF.

Mr Roy Hughes (Newport East, Lab): Does this not illustrate yet again that in this region we should be pursuing a policy far more independent of American policy? Why does he not encourage a joint US-Soviet initiative leading to a Geneva conference to which all parties to the Palestinian and Lebanese disputes could be invited?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I would welcome the spread of the areas in

which the Soviet Union was willing to play its part in the process of peace-keeping in other parts of the world. There is no reason at present to think that the Soviet Union is not certain that there is any link between Iran and Iraq in the Gulf. It remains a possibility.

On initiative may be made in the UN shortly with a view to securing a conclusion that may lay the foundations for ending the war in the Gulf.

Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexleyheath, C): Would this not be the worst possible moment to withdraw unilaterally our contingent from the multinational force? Beyond the complexities of the political scene in the Lebanon lies a risk of conflict between the factions. Any contribution that Britain can make to securing a peaceful settlement should be warmly welcomed.

Will he keep in mind the need for Europe to point a way for wider settlement of the Middle East disputes?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I have given consideration to his last point. I entirely agree that even if it were under consideration, today a decision when the forces of other countries have suffered such a severe blow, would be quite the wrong one to consider unilateral withdrawal.

Station taxis.

Mr Alexander Fletcher, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, in a written Commons reply, said British Railways carrying out a review of all franchise systems at its stations with a view to introducing, where practicable, open systems that would allow any licensed taxi to ply for trade. He understood that in some cases a reasonable fee might be charged by British Rail.

Clerk dies.

Viccount Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords, reported to the House that the death had occurred of Mr John Webb, who since 1977 had been the fourth clerk at the table and head of the Judicial Office.

Exceptional powers needed to combat IRA

TERRORISM

The Provisional IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army were constantly working towards and planning, cold-blooded attacks in Great Britain, Mr Lord Britton, the Home Secretary, said when he moved second reading of the Provisional IRA Bill.

The Bill, he explained, incorporated changes recommended by Lord Jellicoe in his review of existing legislation. It was designed to ensure that the law chose what Lord Jellicoe saw as the proper balance between the safety of the public and the rights of the individual.

The 1974 and 1976 Acts had been subject to parliamentary renewal, serving to remind them that the powers in it were exceptional and not to be taken for granted and exercised with the greatest care and consideration.

In other circumstances, he would regard the powers as wholly unacceptable. But like his predecessors and Parliament which had renewed them nine times, he also regarded them as an essential part of the armoury against terrorism, the most direct danger facing society today.

The Bill gave power to proscribe organisations concerned in Northern Ireland terrorism and created a range of offences connected with such organisations.

As well as Irish terrorism, there was a newer danger from terrorist groups with Middle East connections which had operated increasingly in the European continent. The Bill had therefore accepted Lord Jellicoe's recommendation that the powers of arrest and detention in respect of Irish terrorists should be extended also to international terrorists.

The life of the Bill was limited to five years after Royal Assent and would be subject to annual renewal.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, moved: "That this House declines to give a second reading to a Bill which includes the power of arbitrary arrest and detention and the exclusion of British citizens from parts of the United Kingdom, which is based on a review that concludes that there can be no clear proof of the effectiveness of such measures, and which, in the opinion of some of Northern Ireland's most respected opponents of terrorism, will give nothing but support to the terrorists in Northern Ireland."

He said the Home Secretary had sought to justify the changes as essential to fight international terrorism, but that was a wholly bogus reason. The effect of the Bill would be to move away from the rules which ought to characterise a free society and move towards a society which was arbitrary, repressive and where freedom became a part of the permanent way of life.

That was why the Opposition would be voting against a second reading.

Mr Prior: It is surprising that some of them are now in the South, but we do not know. We have had the

maximum cooperation from the South - from the Irish Government as well as from the British Government - and I have no doubt that they are as keen as we are to recapture those prisoners.

The block had been the subject of searching and wide ranging inquiries, carried out in one wing two weeks before the escape.

There are a number of blocks in the prison which are segregated. That is because of the troubles we have had and is partly due to the fact that there are many more republican prisoners than loyalist. This block had been non-segregated until the loyalist problems of October 1982. Since that time it has been a republican block with no loyalist prisoners. There are seven blocks in the Maze which are still mixed republican and catholic and we shall do all we can to keep as many wings mixed as we can.

Mr James Maloney (Lagan Valley, DUP): Does Mr Prior admit that the inquiry will be limited to the responsibility of prison officers and that it will take no account of the changed Northern Ireland policy, particularly under the regime of the Earl of Gower and Lord Whitelaw, who were in power at the time of the escape?

Mr Prior: I think we have had something of a success to tell you this particular escape, but it is nothing to the success they will have to tell if they forced the resignation of the Secretary of State in these circumstances.

The inquiry would also include the financial considerations which had led to delays in the follow-up to the escape.

Mr Des Dwyer (Chorley, C): Many groups have put forward various proposals. There is urgent need for these alternatives to be narrowed down to a few. Mr Prior, are you into getting the necessary backing for their schemes to get off the ground?

Mr Prior: At a certain time there will have to be a rationalisation of the possible proposals. The whole thing will depend on the ability of the private sector to finance any scheme. We must therefore tackle the finance first.

Mr Donald Anderson (Swansea East, Lab): Is it from Government policy that under no circumstances will any public money be at risk, either directly by subvention or indirectly by some form of insurance policy?

Mr Prior: I think we must await the report. The Government has made its position clear on Mr Anderson's point and there has been no departure from that.

Mr Ridley: All possible propositions and designs are still open. The bank report will come in the next few days and will be a cost and financing difficulties associated with each project.

We must await that report before we can form any judgment about this matter.

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Tighter security in Ulster prisons

MAZE ESCAPE

There could be no let-up in the measures being taken to recapture the 19 prisoners still missing from the Maze Prison, in Northern Ireland, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in a statement to the Commons.

They were dealing with a determined and violent man, he said. He intended to publish as full an account as possible of the matter, consistent with the future security of the prison, when Sir James Hattersley, Mr Prior's Chief Inspector of Prisons, had completed his inquiry into the escape. He could not say when the report would be complete.

All governors of Northern Ireland prisons had undertaken immediate, urgent reviews of their security systems and procedures.

In the Maze and elsewhere there had been additional searching of prisoners, cells, prison workshops and other areas.

Some additional physical security measures were being implemented, including provision of protective screens for the control rooms of each H block in the Maze. A more secure electronic locking system had been fitted to the main gate of the Maze on a trial basis, which if found satisfactory, would be fitted to a specially constructed bullet-proof control post. Other security measures were also being taken.

Mr Des Cawston (Chorley, C), Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that it seemed that each block was searched for groupings of prisoners who were able to associate with each other and had originally been intended to be searched for trouble, if searches were not stepped up.

Those who had pressed for that kind of segregation should keep their complaints to a minimum now.

When had H Block Seven been searched, how, and what had been found? Were other countries cooperating fully in the search for the prisoners?

Mr Prior: It is surprising that some of them are now in the South, but we do not know. We have had the maximum cooperation from the South - from the Irish Government as well as from the British Government - and I have no doubt that they are as keen as we are to recapture those prisoners.

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British and American warships standing by

GRENADA

With the situation in the Caribbean island of Grenada still volatile following last week's military coup and the execution of the Prime Minister, Mr Maurice Bishop, the Government had instructed HMS Antrim to be prepared to evacuate the two hundred or so British residents and tourists should the situation worsen, and make that necessary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in a statement to the Commons.

Can he assure us there is no question of American military intervention as this could only make the situation worse?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: There is no question of that.

Mr Peter Tapsell (Lindsay East, C): Has he any information about the alleged Canadian presence in Grenada and the role they played? There is widespread belief in the Caribbean over the last few years, that Grenada is regarded as part of the Soviet empire, and it is partly for this reason that the United States has intervened in the island's affairs. Like the British, they were simply ready to evacuate their own citizens, of whom 1,000 were resident on Grenada, should the situation deteriorate.

The Government (he said) join with those in the Caribbean region and elsewhere who have decried the killings and we view with grave concern the existing state of unconstitutional government and insecurity on the island.

The resident representative of the British High Commission has been active in maintaining contact with the British community and reports that no British citizens appear to be in immediate danger.

We remain in close touch with the governments of other Commonwealth Caribbean countries, whose leaders have been meeting in Trinidad. We shall be discussing with them and with other interested states, the best prospects of helping to achieve a restoration of constitutional government, peace and security in Grenada.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Leeds East, Lab): The Opposition fully shares his concern at what is happening in Grenada. Military dictatorships are all too common in that part of the world, but this is the first time anything like this has occurred in one of the Commonwealth countries of the Caribbean.

Peers were discussing a Government amendment to limit the effect of the registration requirements in the use of word processors.

Lord Mikhson asked whether the Government realised where it was going by the all-pervasive registration requirements under the Bill.

The case he had quoted of the school computer was not just a matter of ad absurdum but legislation at absurdum.

Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said that fears about the Bill were unfounded. The amendment was agreed to.

Under the Data Protection Bill, if some cricket-loving schoolboy cared to put on the school computer the names of the first and second elevens, together with the number of runs they had scored in the course of the summer, the school would have to register that computer, Lord Mikhson, speaking for the Opposition, said during the report stage of the Bill in the Lords.

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Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said that fears about the Bill were unfounded. The amendment was agreed to.

Under the Data Protection Bill, if some cricket-loving schoolboy cared to put on the school computer the names of the first and second elevens, together with the number of runs they had scored in the course of the summer, the school would have to register that computer, Lord Mikhson, speaking for the Opposition, said during the report stage of the Bill in the Lords.

Peers were discussing a Government amendment to limit the effect of the registration requirements in the use of word processors.

Data Bill fears unfounded

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Knesset looks to local polls for clues to its own future

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Less than three weeks after taking office, the new Likud Government, led by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, will face an indirect test of its electoral appeal today when 2.5 million Israelis are eligible to take part in municipal elections contested by the same parties which dominate the Knesset.

Although some of the candidates such as Mr Teddy Kollek, the ebullient Labour Mayor of Jerusalem, have an appeal which crosses party lines, the results are being eagerly awaited as a guide towards voting intentions in a general election which many expect to be brought forward from its scheduled date of 1985.

Voters will be casting their ballots both for specific mayoral candidates and for party lists. In the run up to voting, Labour has been improving its position in the opinion polls.

Because of the grave economic crisis, the party has been concentrating on the national aspect of the election to the country's 147 local authorities. Reserve General Mordechai Gur, the former Chief of Staff in charge of the Labour campaign, claimed that national issues were inseparable from the municipal poll.

After the recent exit from politics of Mr Menachem Begin and the chain of economic catastrophes, Likud managers are braced for a protest vote against the Government.

The last hours of canvassing yesterday were overshadowed by reports of a sharp drop in value of shares following the reopening of the crisis hit Tel Aviv stock exchange for the first time in more than a fortnight. Because of heavy selling, smog

40 per cent in dollar terms was wiped off the value of shares in the main commercial banks since the exchange shut on October 6. Other shares fell an average of 20 per cent in dollar terms.

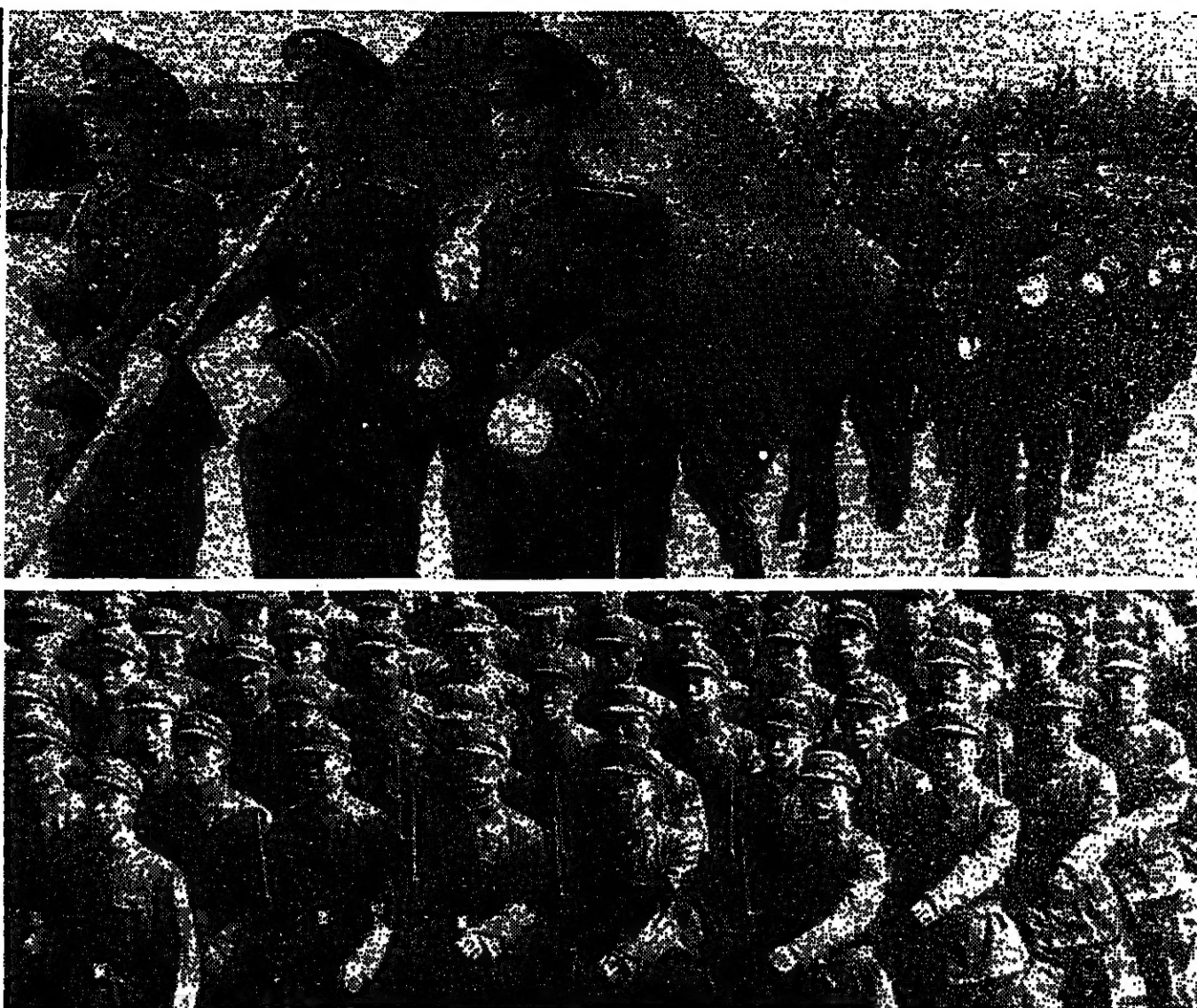
Although government officials and stockbrokers expressed relief that the initial wave of selling had been less serious than feared, there were indications that the slump in the value of bank shares - the country's most popular hedge against 131 per cent inflation - could have damaging electoral results for the Likud.

In Jerusalem, the municipal election campaign has seen occasional outbreaks of violence resulting from another issue gathering momentum in national political terms - the mounting hostility between ultra-orthodox Jews and the majority of Israelis, who are less exacting in their adherence to strict religious laws.

Last week, Mr Kollek, was attacked by a mob of 200 Jewish fanatics because of his refusal to withdraw financial support for a large new mixed-sex swimming pool.

One of his campaign posters warns, that a failure to vote for him could tie his hands by forcing him into a coalition at City Hall with his ultra-orthodox rivals from the Agudat Israel party.

Although many of the 100,000 Palestinian Arab residents of East Jerusalem are entitled to vote, the great majority are expected to boycott the poll for national reasons as they have done in previous elections since the Arab sector of the city was conquered by Israel in 1967.



The changing face of China: Chinese infantrymen show off their new dress uniform (top), a complete contrast with the plain khaki of Mao's day (below). The short collar is almost the only stylistic feature to remain.

Mao Tse-tung's little red book falls from favour

Peking (Reuters) - China's Communist Party daily paper made no mention of the works of late Chairman Mao Tse-tung in a list of essential reading for all party members published yesterday.

"Organize party members to start studying these documents, and get on with it", the Central Working Com-

mittee for Party Rectification said in a decree published in the newspaper.

The party recently said it would purge ultra-leftwing and corrupt officials among its 40 million members. The move was seen by diplomats as the next step in consolidating the position of the present leadership around Mr Deng Xiaoping.

The disappearance of Mao's writings is a striking change from the heady days of the Cultural Revolution.

Eight documents listed as required reading include reports of Central Party meetings since Mr Deng took control, speeches by Mr Deng and party leader Mr Hu Yaobang, and the party and national constitutions.

Rebel raids fuel petrol crisis in Nicaragua

Managua (AP) - The Government is to curb petrol use, limit weekend activities and turn off the lights at midnight because of fuel shortages.

The Sandinista authorities also announced stiff penalties for violations of their air and maritime space, creating a 25-mile security zone off both Nicaragua's coasts. They also announced that they would evacuate 25,000 people from the city of Corinto if rebel attacks there continued.

The state radio said the rationing measures were taken "in view of the national emergency created by the imperialist aggression".

The Sandinistas have suffered a series of crippling attacks by US-backed rebels in the past two months which have hit fuel supplies.

The measures reduce petrol quotas to private car owners from 20 to 18 gallons a month and to taxi drivers from five gallons to one a day. Government agencies will receive 15 per cent less for official use.

The three newspapers in Managua - the official *Barricada*, the pro-Sandinista *Nuevo Diario* and the opposition *La Prensa* - will receive less newsprint and will not publish on Sunday.

Street lights will be switched off at midnight. The traditional six-day week will be reduced to five, with shifts increased from eight to 10 hours.

Commander Daniel Ortega, the junta coordinator, said an invasion by the Honduran or US Army was imminent and urged the country's 2.5 million residents to prepare to face it. Recent rebel attacks had closed Nicaragua's only oil unloading docks.

Commander Ortega said Corinto would be evacuated "if the imperialist aggression that places in danger the lives of the people persists".

Queensland Premier rules out coalition

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Mr Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the victorious Queensland Premier, yesterday firmly ruled out any coalition with the rump of the Liberal Party.

The Liberals look like retaining only seven of the 20 seats they had before Saturday's election. The final results will not be known until the end of the week after preferences have been allocated.

After a Cabinet meeting in Brisbane yesterday, the Premier said that he believed his National Party Government would have 42 seats, an overall majority of one.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen has started talks on the composition of his 18-member ministry and plans to reopen the state Parliament towards the end of next month. So far this year it had sat for just over 14 days.

The Premier does not rule out the possibility that some Liberals might support him.

Mr Terry White, the Liberal Party leader, said yesterday that he would stand for the party leadership which is automatically declared vacant after an election.

The poor showing of the Liberals in Queensland is a blow for Mr Andrew Peacock, the federal Liberal leader, with a federal by-election on Saturday week for the seat of Moreton, formerly held by Sir James Killen, (Liberal) who has retired.

The Labour Party requires a swing of only about 1.8 per cent to win Moreton. However, the Liberals have a good candidate in Mr Don Cameron, who lost his seat in the March general election and who had held marginal seats for the party for 16 years.

The Liberals are hoping that because no National Party candidate is standing at Moreton the coalition opposition will present a united front.

Iran assault closes on Iraq town

Tehran (Reuters) - Iran said yesterday that its forces had launched the second phase of an offensive into Kurdish mountains on northern Iraq and were closing in on the Iraqi border town of Penjwin.

The national news agency IRNA said that Iranian troops, who began the new assault late on Sunday night, had captured Iraqi positions on the Kahu Heights north of Penjwin and two other areas of high ground. It said hundreds of Iraqis had been killed or wounded in the fighting.

● BAGHDAD: Iraq confirmed that Iranian troops had launched a fresh attack on the northern Gulf war front, five days after they mounted a cross-border offensive over the Kurdish mountains (Reuters reports).

Iraqi war communiques issued over the past few days said 5,000 Iranian troops had been killed in the offensive, while dozens of Iranian tanks as well as other equipment had been destroyed.

Spanish leaders join forces against ETA

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, and the opposition leader, Señor Manuel Fraga, agreed on bipartisan anti-terrorist measures here yesterday after one of the most recent Basque extremist attacks left a five-month-old child seriously wounded.

Their conversation took place at the prime minister's residence, Moncloa Palace, in the midst of growing political violence by the leftwing secessionist organization ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty). The Prime Minister had received a message from

President Reagan shortly before, expressing his solidarity in the worldwide fight against terrorism.

Señor Fraga, whose conservative Popular Alliance has repeatedly called for emergency measures to stamp out the ETA, said after the meeting that he intended to cooperate with the Government in new anti-terrorist measures. He did not specify what had been agreed.

The injured baby is the daughter of a member of the paramilitary civil guard police. She was hit by flying debris on Sunday night when ETA blasted a civil guard barracks at Lecumberri, near Pamplona, with three bazooka rounds and several bursts of machine-gun fire.

About one-and-a-half hours earlier, a bomb exploded at the San Sebastian naval headquarters, but there were no victims. The building had been evacuated after an anonymous telephone warning.



Señor González (left) and Señor Fraga: Allies against ETA.

Sahel herds eating like locusts, dying like flies

From Susan MacDonald, Dakar

The West African countries of the Sahel could be facing the worst drought since 1972 within the next few months, according to aid specialists working in the area. The lateness and the sparseness of the summer rains, which usually last from July until October, have badly hit pasture lands and crops.

This situation is likely to become dramatic as cattle, sheep and goats move southwards in search of food. UN Food and Agriculture Organization experts working in Senegal estimate that the percentage of grassland available this year is less than a quarter of that of last year.

In 1972 grazing herds reached as far south as the Casamance region, below Gambia, "eating like locusts and dying like flies", as one aid worker said. This

situation could well be repeated this year. Around Dakar the intermittent rains did not start until August and already the earth is becoming brown and parched.

The Senegalese Minister for Rural Development, Mr Amadou Bator Diop, estimates that there will be a 300,000 tonne deficit in crops.

● ABIDJAN: Unicef, the United Nations' Children's Fund is to increase its staff in Africa by a third from 1984 in an effort to combat rising child deaths (AFP reports).

Mr Richard Jolly, Unicef's deputy director-general, said that the increase would not entail extra spending because staff already employed at Unicef headquarters in Geneva, Copenhagen and New York would be sent to Africa.

French couple seized by Burmese rebels

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Karen rebels opposed to the Burmese Government have claimed responsibility for kidnapping a French married couple 100 miles east of Rangoon.

A spokesman for the Karen National Union said the couple were being held close to a combat zone near the Thai border. French diplomats have confirmed the kidnapping.

The couple were seized at Myinging Galay where French technicians are working on a new cement plant largely financed by France. It is the third kidnapping in recent years of foreigners by anti-government rebels in Burma.

Ten years ago Shan rebels secured the release from prison of the notorious warlord Khun Sa in exchange for two Russian doctors they had kidnapped.

Concorde's booming business

From Arthur Reed, Delhi

British Airways has applied to the US aviation authorities for permission to extend its London-Washington Concorde service to Miami. Mr Colin Marshall, the airline's chief executive, said here yesterday.

The aircraft will be able to fly at twice the speed of sound between the two American cities, producing the sonic boom, as most of the route will be over the Atlantic.

British Airways has taken its decision following record Concorde business, with most of the twice-daily flights between New York and London nearly full, and an operating profit on supersonic services in the most recent financial year of around £7m.

Mr Marshall, who is here to attend the annual meeting of the International Air Transport Association, said BA now proposed to keep its fleet of six

Concordes in service for a further 10 years at least.

Airline industry leaders here for the late meeting heard that their companies were losing as much as £325m a year through ticketing frauds, according to a recent investigation by IATA security. To try to stop the practice the industry is to put the serial numbers of stolen tickets on to a computer programme so that airline staff can carry out checks before passengers board flights.

Most of the frauds involve tickets stolen from airline or travel agents offices and then filled in at face value of anything up to £4,000 each. In a recent outbreak of burglaries at travel agencies in London more than 11,000 blank tickets were taken.

IATA security officers believe that organized crime is behind the thefts, and that much of the money "laundered" from the airlines is being used to support

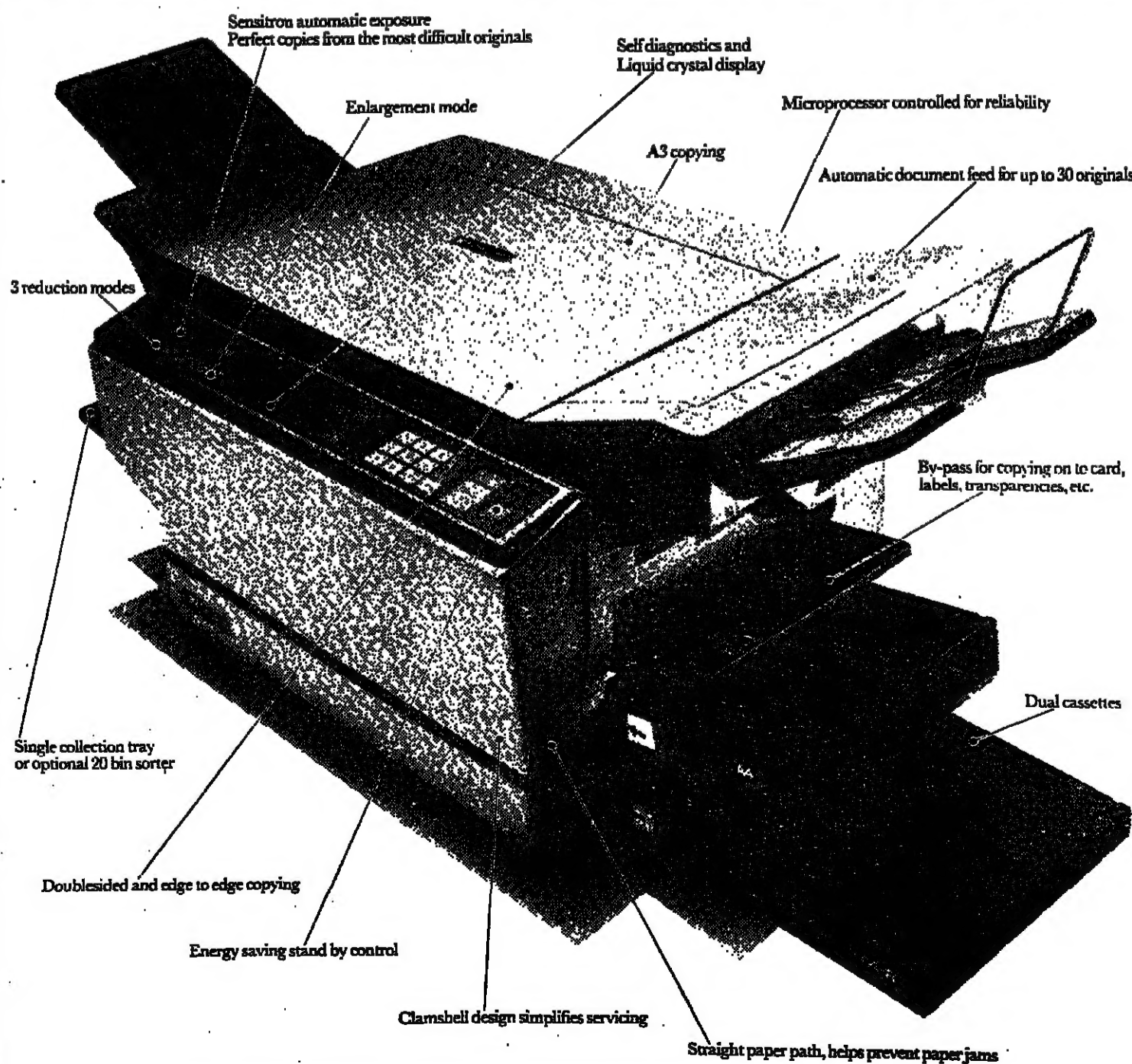
gun-running and drug-trafficking.

Sir Adam Thomson chairman of British Caledonian said that the practice had reached such proportions that "it is not possible to turn a blind eye to it any more". Western governments should put pressure on offending countries and, as a final resort cut off their services.

Opening the meeting Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister said, in a veiled reference to the shooting down by the Soviet Union of the Korean airliner "the skies must be secure from brigandism. Innocent passengers should not be made victims of any type of political campaign".

Airlines at the meeting postponed until today a debate on the Korean affair after several Arab airlines insisted on incidents affecting their airliners should be included in a resolution deploring the Soviet action.

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The Beirut bombings: Reagan under pressure; Mitterrand's flying visit; Pope outraged

Three crucial decisions Washington must take over the next few days

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Administration officials must take a number of crucial decisions over the next few days in response to the terrorist bombing of the US Marine headquarters in Beirut.

● First, they must decide how the 1,600 Marines can be made less vulnerable in future to ensure that there will not be a repetition of Sunday's tragedy.

● Second, they must decide what form of retaliation the US should take once the identity of the attackers is known.

● Third, and most difficult of all, they must work out what US policy towards Lebanon and the Middle East as a whole should be.

Congress, the press and the American public are already clamouring for the Administration to redefine and clarify the role of US troops in Lebanon and their long-range mission in the Middle East.

General Paul Kelly, Commander of the Marine Corps, left Washington for Beirut yesterday to study the Marines' deployment. One option being considered is to base them on American warships off the Lebanese coast when they are

not on patrol in and around Beirut airport.

Another is to expand the area under US control so the Marines can occupy defensive positions on the high ground around Beirut airport. At present they are "sitting ducks" to sniper attacks, particularly in their passive role in which they are only supposed to fire in self-defence.

Retaliation presents the Administration with a more difficult problem. It is still unclear who was responsible for the attack. US officials believe it was carried out by a radical Shia Muslim group known as Hezbollah, which is backed and inspired by Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, and which operates from a part of Lebanon controlled by Syrian forces.

But even if this is confirmed, it is difficult to see what response the US could take against a small and elusive group of political fanatics. Economic, political or even military retaliation against Iran or Syria is a possibility if either country is shown to have knowingly assisted the terrorists in any way.

But a bombing attack on Damascus, for instance, or some other military response against Syria would run a high risk of confrontation with the Soviet Union which has about 7,000 advisers in Syria.

Such a venture would almost certainly face strong opposition from Congress, already deeply concerned about US involvement in Lebanon and would view any American military action beyond Beirut as a Vietnam-style escalation of the conflict.

The American presence could well become a political time-bomb which could seriously damage President Reagan's reelection prospects next year.

Crudely stated, the Administration has three basic options in Lebanon. It could cut its losses and bring the troops back home, increase the size and scope of its forces and expand the area under their control, or, most likely, it can continue its present policy while increasing political efforts to bolster the Lebanese Government and hasten the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the country.



The briefing: President Reagan deciding on Middle East tactics with Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, left, and Mr Robert McFarlane, National Security Adviser-designate, on a flight to Washington.

Iran says attack was well-deserved

Tehran (AP) — Iran's Foreign Ministry yesterday denied any Iranian involvement in Sunday's bomb attacks on American and French military buildings in Beirut.

However, several Iranian newspapers yesterday described the attacks, in which more than 200 people died, as a "well-deserved lesson" and a "suitable response" to the

United States and France.

The ministry's denial, published in the local press, said that the "American authorities, unable to understand the meaning of the resistance by the Lebanese, were trying to justify their weakness and their successive defeats" by

"manipulating world opinion".

In an editorial, *The Daily Kayhan* said: "This time the movement for Lebanon's Muslim and revolutionary people attacked the imperialist forces", and what had happened on Sunday was a suitable response to all the attacks and all the massacres of the Zionist regime. The attack on Sunday

was a reprisal for the massacres (of Palestinians last year) at Sabra and Chatila refugee camps.

The Daily Islamic Republic said: "It was right of Lebanon to inflict decisive blows by all possible means on intervention forces and aggressors to end interference in their destiny."

Fatal gap in Marine security

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

When the suicide bomber crashed into the American military base here with a lorry carrying 2000 lb of TNT, one of the few American Marines to see the assassin was unable to fire his rifle because strict rules forbade the Marines from carrying loaded weapons inside their compound.

According to Lance Corporal Robert Calhoun, a colleague was standing guard outside the four-storey building headquarters desperately tried to fit an ammunition clip into his automatic rifle but before he could fire a shot the bomber — dressed in green combat fatigues and smiling through the window of his lorry at the men he was about to kill — detonated the explosives.

Furthermore, those responsible for the slaughter of the American Marines would have been well aware that the guards were holding unloaded weapons. Outside the Marine base — and in clear view of the public — there stands a large notice in English which says: "Caution. Unload weapons before entering compound."

It also transpires that the bomber could have had an intimate knowledge of the building he was about to destroy. During last year's Israeli siege of West Beirut, the same four-storey building that the Marines were to occupy later was defended by Shia Muslim militiamen of the "Amal" movement: The Americans believe that the suicide bomber was probably a Shia Muslim.

Lance Corporal Calhoun, aged 27, who has damaged eardrums from the explosion, told the American NBC television network yesterday that his colleague who was guarding Marine Post 7 outside the headquarters — saw the truck turning towards the iron gate into the compound.

"As it went by, he tried to pull out a magazine because they were not allowed to have one in our weapons. He tried to pull the bolt home. And by the time he got everything loaded, the bomb had exploded. He said all he could remember was that the man was smiling as he drove."

Just why Marine guards

inside the compound were not carrying loaded weapons will now have to be investigated by the Marine inquiry into Sunday's massive explosion. Off-duty Marines in the base are not permitted to carry ammunition clips in their rifles but the rules were apparently extended to Marines on guard duty who were not actually on the compound perimeter. This meant that the bomber was almost invulnerable once he breached the compound fence.

"As it went by, he tried to pull out a magazine because they were not allowed to have one in our weapons. He tried to pull the bolt home. And by the time he got everything loaded, the bomb had exploded. He said all he could remember was that the man was smiling as he drove."

One Marine — a sergeant — does appear to have managed to fire five rounds of ammunition at the bomber as he drove through two barricades inside the compound and crashed into sandbagged emplacement beneath the headquarters building.

The sergeant was actually beneath the building and had time to load. He was killed, either by the lorry or by the subsequent explosion.

Yet the bombing of the American embassy last April was carried out in an almost identical manner. A man committed to his own death as well as to those in the embassy drove a truck loaded with explosives through a barrier and detonated the bomb at the

very entrance of the building. At no stage did the American Marines — or the French paratroopers who were also bombed on Sunday — appear to think that the attack might be repeated.

Indeed, even yesterday, the British embassy — which houses many US embassy staff in a woefully guarded. Only 25 Marines and a flimsy iron fence are there to prevent an attack from the busy seafront highway outside.

This scant state of security was alleviated yesterday by only two modest improvements: a series of iron stakes driven at an angle into the ground beside the road in front of apartments inhabited by US embassy personnel; and two road checkpoints manned by US Marines who politely asked occasional motorists to open the boots of their cars for inspection.

Neither the Marines nor the French have ever adopted the principle of chicanes used by the British army in Northern Ireland. A double wall of sandbags or concrete placed three quarters of the way across a road for each side but with enough room between for a very slow moving vehicle to pass with two sharp turns. No lorry travelling at speed could crash through such a wall. But in Northern Ireland, there are no bombers deliberately bent on suicide.

Despite an attempted car bombing of a Marine convoy in Beirut last week and several days of sniping that cost three Marine lives, they were still unprepared for what happened on Sunday. In the end, the details may never be clear, however: almost everyone who witnesses the incident died in the explosion.

Moscow scents a new Vietnam as world leaders voice their dismay

New York (AP) — Many world leaders denounced the Beirut bombings. The Pope called the attacks an act of war and Israel's new Prime Minister said they were "a despicable crime".

In Moscow, the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* said "it

appears the Vietnam story is beginning to repeat itself."

The Pope, his voice filled with emotion as he stood before a crowd of 80,000 at St. Peter's Square, said: "great sense of sorrow... surges from the soul."

"It is a new act of war at the moment in which, profiting

from a fragile ceasefire, attempts were being made to reestablish dialogue."

Pravda repeated its claim that the Marine contingent had violated its peacekeeping mandate by fighting with some Lebanese factions. Marine spokesmen have said all action was defensive. "It appears that

the Vietnam story begins to repeat itself," *Pravda* commented. The USA is getting drawn deeper and deeper into the fighting in the Lebanese mountains while generals get more and more freedom of action."

Pravda also reiterated the Soviet position that "peace

and accord in long-suffering Lebanon... are impossible in the conditions of foreign interference, foreign occupation and force."

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the new Israeli Prime Minister called the attacks a "despicable crime, undoubtedly perpetrated by those who want to prevent a

peaceful solution in Lebanon and to increase bloodshed."

The Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, who has tried to mediate in the Lebanese conflict, said: "We hope that bloodshed will not obliterate the optimistic picture that emanated from the recent ceasefire."

The first of the injured French soldiers were flown into the military airport at Villacoublay on the western outskirts of Paris from Beirut last night, where they were met by the Prime Minister.



The debris: A US Marine carrying boots and a flak jacket from the rubble of the command building in Beirut as the search for victims of Sunday's bombing continued.

French parties close ranks despite doubts

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The French, outraged by the attack on their national dignity as much as by the slaughter of their sons, closed ranks yesterday behind President Mitterrand and his decision to retain French troops in Beirut, despite underlying misgivings about the role and purpose of the multinational force.

The only discordant voice was that of the Communists who repeated their apprehensions about France getting drawn into what they termed the civil war in Lebanon.

Last month M. Georges Marchais, the Communist Party's general-secretary, called for the withdrawal of French troops from Beirut when two French soldiers were killed in a bombardment of French military headquarters in the city, bringing the total number of dead to 17 since the arrival of the French contingent 13 months ago.

The rightwing press and opposition parties along with the Socialist Party and leftwing press were unanimous in their approval of M. Mitterrand's symbolic lightning visit to Beirut and in their insistence that France must continue with its mission of peace in Beirut, despite the latest carnage.

That does not necessarily reflect the position of the general public however. People are increasingly wondering what good the multinational force is doing in Beirut, other than apparently waiting like sitting ducks to be killed and asking if it was helping Lebanon along on the road to peace. They are

asking when it will all end, and after how much loss of life among the "soldiers of peace".

The Government which is already unpopular because of its tough economic policies, is fully aware that even before this latest tragedy a majority of French people was against the presence of French troops in Beirut. That is no doubt why M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, left the Government's options open when he said on Sunday night that the question of the withdrawal of the French contingent did not arise "at present".

The opposition was quick to jump on that. M. Mauroy's declaration had been "tainted with indecision", M. Jean Lecanuet, president of the UDF, one of the two main opposition parties, said. "He told us what France is going to do tomorrow", he added.

M. Mitterrand was due to arrive back in Paris last night, less than 24 hours after his secret flight to Beirut in the early hours of yesterday morning. The purpose of this spectacular gesture was both to demonstrate France's continuing support of Lebanon, and to pay tribute in person to the French soldiers who had died, as well as to boost the morale of the shocked survivors.

The first of the injured French soldiers were flown into the military airport at Villacoublay on the western outskirts of Paris from Beirut last night, where they were met by the Prime Minister.

Hundreds of arrests in US nuclear protests

NEW YORK (AP) — Police arrested hundreds of anti-nuclear protesters who climbed a fence at Seneca army depot in New York State, tried to blockade the Savannah River nuclear fuel plant in South Carolina and demonstrated at the Honeywell electronics company's headquarters at Minneapolis.

More than 160 were arrested on trespassing charges at Minneapolis. They were taken to Minneapolis Auditorium and given coffee and doughnuts by Police Chief Anthony Bouza, whose wife, Erica, was among those arrested.

Dr Benjamin Spock, the 80-year-old paediatrician, was among more than 100 people held at Seneca.

France allows Irish to stay

Paris — Three Irish citizens, Michael Flanagan, Mary Reid and Stephen King, who were due to leave Paris after their request for political asylum had been turned down, have been granted a renewable extension to their temporary visas (Diana Geddes writes).

Charges of illegal possession of arms and use of false identity papers were dropped earlier this month after "serious irregularities" had been discovered in the circumstances surrounding their arrest in Paris in August, 1982.

Himils unseated

Colombo (Reuters) — Fourteen members of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Sri Lanka's main minority party, lost their seats after boycotting sessions for three months because they refused to drop demands for a separate Tamil state.

Airport offer

Hongkong (AP) — China has said it will allow a Taiwan commercial aircraft to make emergency landings at its new international airport at Xiamen, opposite the nationalist-held island of Quemoy.

Appeals fail

Nairobi (AFP) — The High Court dismissed appeals against death sentences passed by courts martial on Sergeant Joseph Obun and Corporal Charles Mirasi Odawa, for their parts in the failed Air Force coup in August, 1972.

Bank charges

Seoul (Reuters) — Lee Hunsung, head of the Chohong Bank and 24 other people were charged in connection with the illegal withdrawal of more than \$130m worth of bank funds in promissory notes.

Nkomo returns

Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Zimbabwe opposition leader, who spent five months in Britain in self-imposed exile earlier this year, has returned to London to finish his autobiography.

Shao-Shao dies



Shao-Shao, the nine-year-old female panda who last year gave birth to the first twin cubs conceived by artificial insemination outside China, has died of acute gastroenteritis at Madrid zoo.

Sudan justice

Khartoum (AFP) — A criminal was sentenced by a Khartoum court to have his right hand and left leg cut off after he confessed to breaking into a shop and stealing electrical appliances and cameras.

Stone breaker

Los Angeles (AP) — A West German device known as a Lithotripter, which destroys kidney stones with ultrasound waves, without drugs or surgery, has been approved for clinical tests in the United States.

Blacks banned

Pretoria (Reuters) — Pretoria City Council is to spend £78,000 on fencing to keep blacks out of 17 parks, and a further £42,000 on dividing three other parks into white and non-white sections.

Gift to St Lucia

Brussels (AP) — The EEC donated £125,000 to the Caribbean island of St Lucia for distribution to 3,500 victims.

Correction

The director of the national museums of Kenya is Mr Richard Leakey, not Philip Leakey as stated in a report from Nairobi on October 20.

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Walesa puts off Nobel decision

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, leader of the banned Solidarity organization, held talks with the Polish Catholic Church hierarchy about whether to travel to Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize early in December. He has expressed fears that he may be stripped of his citizenship while abroad, and barred from re-entering Poland. Mr Walesa has to present a decision to the Nobel prize committee very soon.

In an interview with the underground weekly *Tygodnik Mazowiec*, he quoted as saying that he will not travel to Oslo.

"Whether I go is one thing. Whether I am allowed to come back is another," he is quoted as saying.

The former Solidarity leader has been the subject of a considerable propaganda campaign in the press and television, which has branded him as a money-grabbing cynic.

Mr Walesa is therefore anxious that a church representative should be seen to be present in Oslo. He has donated the cash prize to a special fund being established by the church to help Poland's private farmers but the church is not enthusiastic about being drawn into political gestures.

Lowest turnout since 1919 in Swiss poll

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The Swiss general election has produced the lowest turnout — 45 per cent — since proportional representation was introduced in 1919.

There was a slight drift to the right, but the extra seats won by the conservative Radicals — mainly at the expense of the Socialists — do not disturb the balance in the two-chamber parliament of the four-party coalition.

The Ecologist Party won two National Council seats. In

Geneva, the rightwing Vigilante and National Action Parties more than doubled their vote but failed to win a seat. Both had campaigned against "excess of foreigners".

The most prominent Socialist to lose his seat on Sunday was Professor Jean Ziegler, known for his criticism of Swiss banking secrecy. His opponents distributed leaflets calling on the electorate not to vote for "a man who denigrates his country from abroad".

Thousands join protest in unlit Montevideo

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

On Uruguay's third national day of protest against the military Government, 80 per cent of Montevideo was without lights, and thousands of people banged pots and pans to symbolize their rejection of the military regime.

Thousands of people gathered at 12 points in the city on Sunday to hold illegal night-time protest rallies, with the largest of them taking place in the middle class suburb of Pocitos and in the working suburbs in the south of Montevideo.

Danes agree on tough budget cuts

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

A week of tortuous negotiations, led by Mr Poul Schlüter, the Conservative Prime Minister, produced an agreement with opposition parties yesterday on an austerity package of 7,850m kr (€550m) in budget cuts, thus avoiding premature election.

The cuts, which will reduce the budget deficit from this year's forecast 63,000m kr to 59,000m kr next year, mostly affect public expenditure.

The package also includes tax cuts for families with children under the age of 10 and measures to help the agricultural and building sectors.

The agreement, which was reached between the 15-month-old Conservative-Liberal minority coalition and two opposition parties, the anti-tax Progress Party and the small centrist Radical Liberal Party, is 2,600m kr short of the 10,000m kr set by the Government as its savings target. Danes can therefore expect a further dose before the end of the year.

Excluded from the savings is a controversial 1,100m kr compulsory annual health tax on the wealthiest 20 per cent of the population.

"All I want is the chance of a lifetime"



Sharon has leukaemia. Children of her mother's generation with this disease had no chance whatsoever. They died. The campaign against this killer has taken gigantic steps in the past 15 years. Sharon has a 50 per cent chance of effective treatment, should she be among those lucky enough to receive it in time. Even more heartening, with your help the Elimination of Leukaemia Fund (ELF) could conceivably eradicate this cruel malignancy within our lifetime. It would never threaten her children - or your children's children.

ELF, a major new medical charity, aims to raise the necessary funds to set up and run a prototype specialist leukaemia unit in London, where it already has three people specially trained to treat leukaemia sufferers. The unit would provide both in-patient and out-patient care. When sufficient money is raised similar units will be established in at least 12 major provincial towns.

The funds needed for the prototype unit cannot be provided by the National Health Service, so ELF is asking for your support. We need to raise £30,000,000 over a five year period. By directly meeting expenses for medical staff and facilities, ELF would be supporting the ailing NHS in a way that is probably unique for a charity.

You can help by completing the Deed of Covenant below for any amount you wish to pledge. Your gift will considerably exceed its face value because ELF can recover the income tax which has been paid on it. If you wish to covenant your contribution for a period longer than four years, simply indicate the period you propose on the form. Any donation will be most welcome, whatever the amount.

Please help Sharon and others like her. With all the goodwill in the world, we won't find a cure for leukaemia, but with enough money we might.



THIS ADVERTISEMENT WAS GENEROUSLY GIVEN TO ELF BY PADMA BHUSHAN SWRAJ PAUL, CHAIRMAN OF THE CAPARO GROUP LIMITED, IN MEMORY OF HIS DAUGHTER, AMBIKA, WHO DIED OF LEUKAEMIA

This photograph was generously donated to ELF by The Earl of Snowdon GCVO

Single donation

To: Elimination of Leukaemia Fund
31/32 Hans Place
London SW1X 0JY

I/We enclose a donation of £..... to the Fund

Name

Address

(Block letters please)

Date

Form of Bequest FOR INCLUSION IN WILL

I bequeath to the Elimination of Leukaemia Fund the sum of

..... pounds for the general purposes of the Fund; and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer for the time being or other proper officer of the Fund shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

Banker's Order

(for use with covenant form if desired)

To Messrs
(Fill in the name and branch address of your Bank)

On the day of 19..... please pay the sum of £..... to Barclays Bank Plc, Hayes Kent Branch, Station Approach, Hayes, Bromley, Kent (20-38-05) for the credit of the Elimination of Leukaemia Fund (Acc no: 1155105) and thereafter make like payments on the same day annually: in each of the three following years/until further notice.*

Signature.....

Address.....

Date

Please send this Banker's Order, when completed to the Elimination of Leukaemia Fund, 31/32 Hans Place, London SW1X 0JY.

*Delete as applicable

All enquiries and donations should be addressed to Humphry Berkeley, The Director, Elimination of Leukaemia Fund 31/32 Hans Place, London SW1X 0JY

Deed of Covenant

(for use by firms and individuals)

I (for names and addresses)

of (full address)

hereby covenant with the Elimination of Leukaemia Fund that for a period of four years or during my lifetime (whichever period shall be the shorter) I will pay to the said Fund yearly on the day of such a sum as after deduction of Income Tax at the standard rate for the time being in force will leave in the hands of the said Fund a net sum of £..... such sum to be paid from my general fund of taxed income so that I shall receive no personal or private benefit in any year from the said yearly payments or any part thereof, and so that the same shall be applied for the said Fund. The first payment to be made on the day of 19.....

(This date must be later than the date of signing below)

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day of 19.....

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED by the above named.

..... Signature of donor

In the presence of

(Signature of witness)

(Address of witness)

.....

(Witness's occupation)

*This should be the net sum per annum which the donor intends to give

Arrest shown on television

DeLorean's acquittal demanded

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Mr John DeLorean's lawyers are demanding that all charges against him should be dismissed after the television screening of the extraordinary FBI videotapes of his arrest.

The black and white tapes show Mr DeLorean relaxing in a Los Angeles hotel room a year ago. Government agents, posing as drug dealers, arrive with a suitcase of cocaine, and Mr DeLorean chuckles delightedly and says: "It's as good as gold."

There is the popping of a champagne cork and Mr DeLorean raises a glass and offers the toast to "a lot of success for everyone."

At this moment there is a knock on the door and a man enters, saying "Hi, John I'm Jerry West with the FBI. You are under arrest for narcotics smuggling."

Mr DeLorean appears surprisingly calm at this turn of events, obediently offers his wrists for handcuffs and listens as his rights are read to him.

He is now on bail of more than \$3m on charges that he arranged a \$16m cocaine deal to save his sinking sports car company in Northern Ireland. His trial is due to begin next Tuesday in Los Angeles.

Mr Howard Weizman, his attorney, protested yesterday that the screening of the videotapes on the CBS network

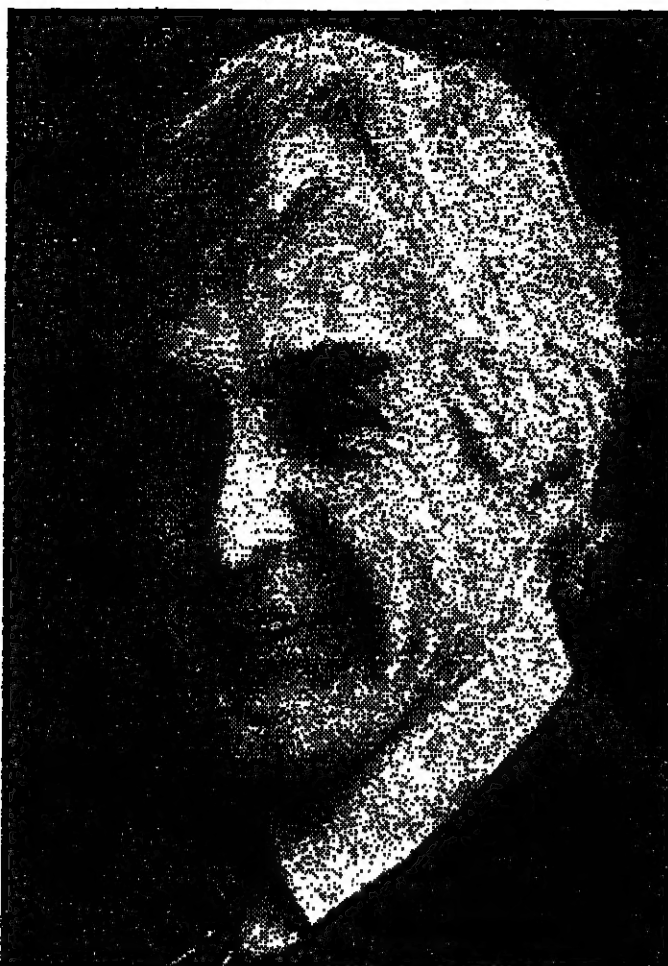
had robbed Mr DeLorean of his chance of a fair trial. "This is a nightmare," he said. "He is going to be tried and perhaps, God forbid, convicted through the media. This is going to be a circus."

Judge Robert Takasugi, who will be the judge at Mr DeLorean's trial, ruled that CBS could not broadcast the videotapes. But CBS went to an appeal court on Sunday and judges overturned the ruling. The lawyer representing CBS said that Judge Takasugi had no power to stop the screening. He added that the case was "the familiar collision" between freedom of the press and a man's right to a fair trial, with legal precedent being in favour of the press.

Later two Supreme Court justices backed the appeal court decision and the broadcast went ahead.

CBS had obtained copies of the tapes from Mr Larry Flynt, publisher of a pornographic magazine, who said he had bought them from a government employee.

Another videotape, made in Washington a month before Mr DeLorean's arrest, and screened by CBS, shows the car maker saying that financing for the drug deal was being provided by the IRA, and that the IRA was protecting his factory near Belfast.



Mr DeLorean: Took his arrest calmly.

Helsinki back in the arms spotlight

By Henry Stanhope

Diplomatic Correspondent

Senior officials from 35 countries meet in Helsinki today to start talks to work out a new code of conduct for armies in Europe.

Today's gathering is the preparatory meeting for the Conference on Disarmament in Europe, one of the fruits of the European security review conference which recently ended in Madrid after three years of wrangling.

Western powers including the United States and Canada want to use the conference, due to open in Stockholm on January 17, to help to lower East-West tensions by reducing the risk of a surprise attack on the continent.

Under the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1975, they all agreed to a set of so-called confidence building measures, under which they would notify each other in advance of military manoeuvres involving more than 25,000 men.

Now the West wants to include all troop movements involving more than a division - approximately 10,000 men. It also wants notification of all such movements, even when units are travelling from one place to another, to be obligatory.

The Helsinki Final Act moreover limited these arrangements to an area extending only 150 miles inside the Soviet Union. Now the Russians themselves seem prepared to extend the zone eastwards as far as the Urals.

The Russians originally wanted a compensating concession from NATO which would cover virtually the whole of the North Atlantic and its continental movement of NATO warships. But a compromise was reached finally which would cover only air and sea movements connected with European land exercises.

Western diplomats hope that all these arguments will be left until the Stockholm meeting. They want the preparatory meeting, which is scheduled to last for no longer than three weeks, to be a low-key affair concerned only with timetables and agenda.

● MOSCOW: encouraged by anti-nuclear demonstrations in the West at the weekend, the Russians are prepared to bid their time before making their next move at the Geneva arms talks, diplomats believe.

Reports in *Pravda* and other Soviet papers yesterday gave an impression of overwhelming opposition to the deployment of new NATO weapons in Western Europe and North America. All Soviet reports put the numbers of protesters higher than Western estimates.

Pravda carried a photograph of a peace march in Italy, and the headline "We will not allow the first to be lit", said the demonstrations in West Germany, Britain, Italy and Canada had been "unprecedented".

Pravda said yesterday that Moscow would put forward its standing offer of a non-aggression pact between NATO and the Warsaw pact at today's conference in Helsinki.

Leading article, page 13

THE ARTS

Television

Words that linger

Frank Delaney has a programme called, fittingly enough, *Frank Delaney* (BBC 2). He describes the over-emphasis, however, since he must be unique among television interviewers: he has an instinct for conversation and, however arcane the theme, is able to create a kind of intimacy with his interlocutor. There are sometimes sticky passages, of course; however universal your writing, he was telling Jorge Luis Borges last night, there is still that indefinable and elusive South American something.

"That's because I was born in South America," Borges told him. Enough said.

The programme was about the literature of that continent, which in recent years has become a Klondike of prose fiction. A few odd seams and

suggests were once reported, but now there seems to be gold everywhere. Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian novelist, described the "strange, plural identity" out of which that literature has sprung. "In Latin America, fiction and reality are intimately mixed." From this discussion, the idea emerged of a civilization at the same stage of fluidity and growth as nineteenth-century England - although novelists have the added advantage that the South American public seems almost Icelandic in its devotion to books. "Literature is important, not just an entertainment." This is a good illusion.

And then Jorge Luis Borges, the professor of illusions, appeared. He resembled a mole who has stumbled into the light but still retains the warmth and



Borges: professor of illusions

secret of his other life. For Borges, that life consists of words and the sound of words - "a good, lingering word, isn't it?" he said of one specimen from his capacious board of languages. His head is full of sentences and cadences; a remarkable man and, as a result, a remarkable programme.

Peter Ackroyd

Concerts

Groping back in time

LSO/Hickox

Festival Hall/Radio 3

About the curious history behind "The Great British Music Festival", the six-concert collaboration by the four independent London orchestras which was launched on Sunday, more later in the week: it will not have escaped the observant that there is another joint series of programmes of the contemporary orchestral repertoire, "Music of Eight Decades", opening in the same hall in a few days. Why?

Once you get past the absurd flag-waving title with its distasteful Little Englander overtones, there are some interesting things in this series. It was an apt notion to start with Tippett's *Ritual Dances* of 1952 that preceded the completion of his *Midsummer Marriage*: one could draw a fascinating curve of British orchestral music influenced by these rich, colourful and wholly original pieces. Unfortunately few of the consequences of Tippett's adventures are in this series; instead we grope back in time to such harmlessly undemanding pieces as Lennox Berkeley's *Cello Concerto*.

As everyone must know by now, this was composed in 1939 but Berkeley put it in a drawer and forgot he had ever written it. It was revived at this year's Cheltenham Festival and was brought to London for the first time with Moray Welsh as the energetic, sympathetic soloist. I now fully expect to forget I ever heard it.

The LSO sounded pretty scrawny in those two works,

despite Richard Hickox's firm, confident direction. So it was left to John Tavener's *The Whale* to bring spice to the evening, and what a nostalgic aroma it created, with its *echi* theatricality and flamboyance.

Timothy West's elegant dictionary reading could not but be a masterpiece of *Alfred* Liddell, but Felicity Palmer and Stephen Varcoe brought bold assurance to their Latin declamation, and the London Symphony Chorus chattered with conviction right up to the final vomit. Even Tavener does not write them like that any more: an age has passed.

Nicholas Kenyon

Les Arts florissants

Wigmore Hall

A superb concert. You may have been surprised to see that this group from Paris, which had never appeared before in this country, won the prize in the baroque category of the Gramophone record awards for 1983. No need to be surprised after Saturday night: this is an outstandingly interesting and accomplished ensemble, which performs its chosen repertoire with a degree of sophisticated characterization and technical skill that leaves others far behind.

Les Arts florissants takes its name from a small dramatic piece by Marc-Antoine Charpentier, of which we heard a tantalizing fragment and encore at the end of the concert.

Dance

Dance Umbrella

ICA

Two choreographers showing works at the ICA Theatre on Saturday shared one approach: taking tiny movements and repeating them almost obsessively before moving to another. The detail of some of Robert Kovich's actions was minute, for instance shaking just his hand, or his hair, or even his eyelids.

With a background among the prize-winning avant-garde (Benetton College and Judith Dunn's company) and a sound technical foundation (he worked for years with Merce Cunningham, whose standards are exacting), Kovich seems to use the methods of the new dance for sometimes almost old-fashioned ends, such as the duet where he is a man walking through a forest and his partner, Ségolène Colin, apparently represents the tarantula that attacks him.

In his solo, *Decoy*, he is probably a penguin, but the by-play with a squeaky little whistle, the repeated strutting, the strange attack to one side, can grow tiresome, so that the sad ending comes oddly after so many comic efforts. I could not see why one duet was called *Pin-Up*, and I wondered how its patterns (unison or in canon, related or unrelated movements) could ever have justified its original 50-minute length for a larger cast; the 20 minutes or

so that we saw seemed long-winded.

Sue MacLennan's *New Moves* does last about 50 minutes and it is too much. She is trying an interesting idea, using dancers and non-dancers as two separate groups within a dance work, but to make the most of that she needs stronger and better-shaped performers for the dance sections. "Herself," excepted, this is - and she appears only for a few minutes at the end.

John Percival

● The Royal Ballet's performances at Covent Garden during December and January include the premieres of a new ballet by David Bintley (as yet untitled, set to Stravinsky's *Concerto for Piano and Wind*) and Richard Alston's *Midsummer*, set to Tippett's *Fantasia* - concertante on a theme of Correlli.

● *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, with Dams as Snow White, opens at the Phoenix Theatre on December 13 for a limited season. Basil Churchill directs this adaptation by his brother Dennis, and the musical director is Dave Gold. The production was originally written as a Christmas show by Arthur Martyn and presented at the Streatham Theatre in 1938.

Galloping inflation, crippling debt

Victory may prove pyrrhic for the soldiers' successors

Andrew Thompson reports from Buenos Aires on the economic crisis facing the victors of Sunday's elections in Argentina. This is the second of three articles.

With inflation running at an annual rate of 381.8 per cent, unemployment in the region of 15 per cent, and delays and complications piling up in the complex renegotiation of the country's heavy foreign debt, the party which wins next Sunday's elections in Argentina will inherit a difficult challenge on the economic front.

The essential problem is political. After seven years of military rule real wages remain below 1974 levels, as do other economic indicators such as industrial production and gross domestic product per capita.

To seek constitutional stability, the election winners will need to offer at least some improvements in living standards. Indeed there is already a danger that campaign promises are leading to rising popular expectations which will be difficult to satisfy.

"For the first time in Latin America, Argentina and other countries are returning to democracy in the midst of a major economic crisis. This is historically unprecedented", says Señor Oscar Camillón of the Movement for Integration and Development.

The dilemma is whether it is possible to generate domestic economic recovery and at the same time the type of surplus on the trade balance capable of covering the heavy debt servicing burden.

The dramatic nature of Argentina's foreign debt problem is underlined by the

reckless way debts were incurred during military rule. No one knows exactly how much the country owes. The Central Bank's latest estimate is slightly over \$406bn (£266bn), but the bank's president admits this excludes the "secret debts" incurred to buy arms.

The Peronists and the Radicals, the electoral front-runners, believe that it is possible to create economic breathing space. Both are promising to increase real wages, which they say, will boost consumption.

It is believed continued inflation can be controlled by cutting back the military budget, watching state spending,

and setting up a social pact between labour and capital to cover prices and incomes.

The parties point out with some reason that the fundamentals of the Argentine economy are promising. The country is self-sufficient in oil and rich in other natural resources, particularly wheat and cereals (hence the old saying "a good harvest solves this country's problems").

The paradox of the past 40 years is precisely that the economy has stagnated repeatedly despite its natural advantages.

Señor Camillón, however, believes that no one has yet understood the full impact of the Latin American debt crisis. "Some people say we should not pay the foreign debt, and default. Others say we should pay it at all costs. The first course of action is foolish. The second, at present interest rates, and barring major improvements in the international prices of our exports, is impossible."

It is clear that the next government will have to renegotiate the foreign debt agreements with the International Monetary Fund and the creditor banks. The Peronists and the Radicals believe that this can be done on acceptable terms and that the international community will be well disposed to helping a democratic Argentina.

If the Peronists win, a clash may well emerge between the Peronist union rank and file and its leaders, as has happened before when the Peronists were in power.

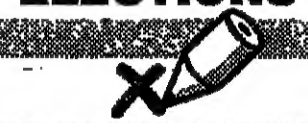
If the Radicals win, a direct clash with the Peronist unions may be unavoidable. The Radicals point out, however, that if they win they will do so with many working-class votes. They have made the democratization of the unions a key electoral issue.

But even assuming that the debt crisis is overcome, it is clear that whatever the complexion of the next government, it will be unable to meet wage demands in full.

Whoever forms the next government, it will find its crisis management skills stretched to the limit.

Tomorrow: Foreign policy

ARGENTINE ELECTIONS



Tight security and palm trees for Qatar summit

By Our Foreign Staff

Stringent security precautions are being taken in Doha, the capital of Qatar in the Gulf, for the summit meeting there in early November of the Gulf Cooperation Council. But the preparations are being made in such an atmosphere of mystery that Doha residents have not even been told the dates of the conference.

The state-controlled radio and television service has mentioned that Qatar is acting as host, but has given no details. The only visible signs that something unusual is to occur early in November is that the country's borders have been closed to all but a few visitors until November 20, and thousands of palm trees have sprung up overnight along the Corniche, the road encircling Doha harbour and leading to the spectacular Sheraton Hotel

where the conference will be held.

The Sheraton itself has been closed to visitors and is operating on a skeleton staff while the whole hotel is redecorated. The red-uniformed guards of Shaikh Khalifa al Thani, the ruler, have sealed off the conference centre, and it is expected that the whole country will be sent on holiday for the conference period.

The Corniche, Doha's main artery, will be closed to the public. Residents expect a curfew to be imposed at a day's notice.

One privileged group who will be allowed in is Southampton Football Club, due to play an exhibition game in Doha during the conference.

The anxieties of Shaikh Khalifa's Government have been intensified since mid-summer by the discovery of an apparent coup attempt.



Shaikh Khalifa: No strong challengers.

In July a Libyan national was arrested in Rome accused of carrying arms, and in return for immunity from prosecution disclosed details of the plot to the police. Subsequent investigations in Doha uncovered a large cache of arms under the floorboards of a house, and security officials have been hunting since then for more caches, so far without success.

Some arrests and summary executions have been rumoured, but there is no indication of any internal group strong enough to challenge the hegemony of the shaikh and his family.

Qatar announced the border restrictions in early September. Only businessmen staying for up to 72 hours would be allowed to enter the country between September 15 and October 15. Not even they could do so between October 15 and November 20.

The assumption in Whitehall is that the recent security scares have made the Government particularly nervous.

Rumours that middle-class Qataris might have been planning a coup are discounted by expatriate residents, although it is true that "bonus" payments and fringe benefits have been stopped since the price of oil was cut earlier this year.

Prisoners of conscience



Soviet Union: Mikhail Kukobaka

By Caroline Moorehead

Mikhail Kukobaka is starting a hunger strike on Sunday to protest against human rights violations in Russia.

A 46-year-old bulldozer driver, he is serving a three-year sentence in a labour camp for allegedly disseminating slanderous fabrications about the Soviet state and social system. October 30 is Political Prisoners' Day in Russia.

Mr Kukobaka first fell out with the authorities in September, 1968, when he visited the Czech Consulate in Kiev to express outrage at the Soviet invasion. Protests of this kind earned him six years' internment in psychiatric hospitals.

After his release, he openly praised Sakharov and Griborenko and wrote essays on his hospital experiences and childhood, which circulated in samizdat. By October, 1978, he was in a labour camp.

In October, 1981, when his sentence was due to expire, he was rearrested. It was thought he would be declared insane and returned to psychiatric hospital.

Instead, the authorities ruled him accountable and he stood trial at Elekt in the Lipetsk region, receiving a new three-year strict-regime sentence in a labour camp.

"I am frightened of prison, of camps, of *imatic* asylums", he has written, "but I am more frightened of lies, base behaviour and my own participation in either of these than of any prison".



Mr Kukobaka: A marked man since 1968.

You can't beat Air Canada to Dusseldorf.. Dusseldorf?

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THE ARTS

Galleries

Dramatic events so subtly staged

Annabel Cullen/Suzanne Le Blanc
Paton

Emilio Tadini
Edward Totah

Glenn Sujo:
Impossible Meetings
Anne Berthoud

Giulio Ciniglia
Barbican Sculpture Court

Julian Hawkes
Juda Rowan

While the warranted big, important shows are usually on for a fair length of time, giving one every opportunity to plant a probably quite unnecessary bush outside the door to their good wine, so often the shows which really need a push and a pointer are off almost before the critic has had a proper chance to signal that they are on. That tends particularly to be the case with shows of living artists, especially the young and little-known: if you see it towards the middle of one week, and for some reason cannot fit it immediately in the next, you find yourself pathetically pointing out that it is on for only three or four days more and exhorting your readers, inconveniently, to rush and see it while it is still around. All the same, better late than not at all. So I hope you will bear with me, this week and next, if, in my attempts to keep you up to date with what is happening in London this busy autumn, I seem to be advising you to do the impossible.

For example, I think it would be well worth your while, should you find yourself in Covent Garden before the end of the week, to look in on two quite unpretentious shows right around the corner from each other, that devoted to two very new women artists, Annabel Cullen and Suzanne Le Blanc, at the Paton Gallery, 2

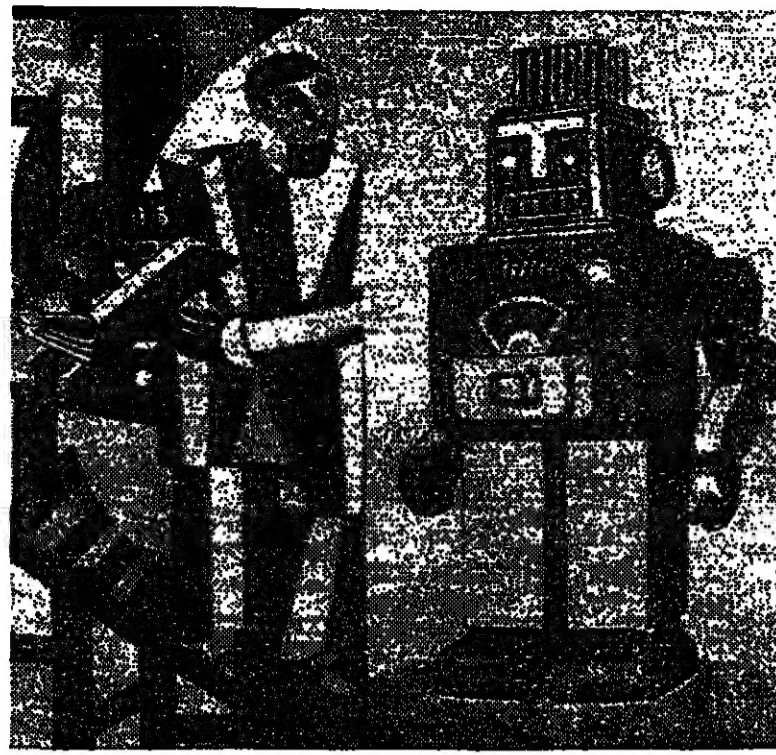
Langley Court, and that of the recent work of Emilio Tadini at the Edward Totah Gallery, 39 Floral Street. And, while you are about it, you would be conveniently placed to see Glenn Sujo's show *Impossible Meetings* at the Anne Berthoud Gallery, 1 Langley Court, which is actually on until November 12.

Annabel Cullen and Suzanne Le Blanc could hardly be more disparate. They both graduated this year, Cullen from the Royal College and Le Blanc from the Slade, and they were both included in this year's *Pick of the New Graduates* show at Christie's. But otherwise it is difficult to see anything in common between Cullen's large, confident, meticulously realistic (though not exactly photo-realistic) portraits and nudes, and Le Blanc's abstracted landscapes or landscape-based abstracts. Except, perhaps, a quality of thought.

This is something easy to feel and difficult to measure. But in Cullen's informal triptych downstairs, of herself and a man in various stages of dressing or undressing, along with the painting upstairs, evidently from the same period but this time identified as a *Self portrait*, you can feel an interest in psychological tensions, in setting up an obscure dramatic event, which takes us beyond the subtle and highly skilled observation of surfaces.

Le Blanc paints what are still just about recognizable landscapes, small in mixed media and then large in oils. At first glance one thinks maybe of Ivon Hitchens, but over and above Hitchens-like fluency with paint there is a clear intelligence teasing out the hidden structures of landscape, the value of what is observed as symbol of what cannot be observed. In particular the large painting *Bracken*, a blaze of gold dazzlingly superimposed on a tangle of dark, rich greens and undergrowth colours, is a winner, strongly suggesting that the painter may prove an important addition to a very persistent, very British school of responders to Nature (with, necessarily I think, a capital "N").

Quite coincidentally, there are certain superficial similarities between the works of Emilio Tadini and those of Glenn Sujo. Both of them, for instance, make telling play with elements of popular iconography, especially those which have perhaps been most widely influential



Scrupulously ill-matched: Glenn Sujo's *Jeune Homme et odalisque (a Giorgione)*

catch him saying it. These self-conscious evokers of classical craftsmanship and inspiration always seem to end up the same way: slippery surfaces flashily rendered, big themes writ small, and a disconcerting slide from sentiment to sentimentality.

Ciniglia's sculptures live up pretty well to all these qualifications. They have the slick surfaces and grandiosity of the sort of sculpture favoured by the Italian authorities in his youth (he was born in 1931), but something like the marble *Narciso* is given a modish twist by being flayed on one side, or a bronze like *Killerman* is updated with some minor displacement of features. In *Sogno di Bruto* the bits and pieces are even more disarranged, so that the whole thing looks like a very large version of one of those desk-puzzles for artistically inclined executives. The total effect of so much slickness is faintly nauseating, and, no, on this occasion I do not think that can possibly be the artist's intention.

The best way to get the taste of that out of one's mouth, I should say, is to run straight over to the Juda Rowan Gallery in Tottenham Mews, where until November 4 there is a show of recent work by a much less known and far superior sculptor, Julian Hawkes. He spent some years as assistant to Philip King, but, except perhaps for a certain lightness of touch, one would never know it, since his own work is very different. He works with equal ease in stone, wood and metal, and specializes in free, organic-seeming forms which evoke all sorts of - extraneous associations. I was about to say, but it is the trick and the charm and the force of these pieces that you cannot finally dismiss anything as extraneous: no association, however remote it may seem from the indications of the titles (usually quite innocent-sounding), can be totally irrelevant.

Several of the pieces have obvious, watery connexions, and some of them are frankly but all ever so slightly, erotic. The delight is that you are kept guessing, and your imagination working overtime. No pretensions claims made, but it does not require much perception to see that, where the essentials are concerned, Hawkes's sculpture is like Sister Kate's shimmy: quite simply, he does it, and does it good.

John Russell Taylor

during the last half-century, the creations of Walt Disney. Of the two painters, Sujo seems to be the more assured and also the more sophisticated and knowledgeable: the "impossible meetings" of his title are between unlikely characters but also between scrupulously ill-matched styles and epochs of twentieth-century art history.

In his previous show, at the ICA, he was frankly and directly autobiographical, providing the references to family portraits, political events of his youth and stories which had captured his imagination in a fascinating series of visual footnotes. Here the imagery is more accessible to everybody, since he is not the only person to have been brought up on Little Nemo and the Katzenjammer Kids, not to mention *Pinochio*, and to have discovered Ingres, Léger and Lang's *Metropolis* at a slightly more advanced stage. Perhaps in the process of "going public" the images have lost a little of their mystery, but the works on paper especially pack quite a wallop of their own: one never feels, to Sujo's credit, that the energy of his work is stolen from his sources of reference, but always that he creates it for himself.

Tadini also offers drawings as well as paintings, all with puzzling and allusive titles. The difference between drawings and paintings is more one of finish than of size, since they are all on canvas and some of the drawings

are bigger than some of the paintings. On the whole, I think the drawings are better: more direct and more closely related to the traditional still-life, though not disdaining a certain amount of play with the illusionistic side of picture-making. The paintings show a strong sense of composition, binding together the heterogeneous elements of Tadini's imagery into effectively complex structures. On the other hand, the colour sense, so clear and subtle in the drawings, becomes oddly muddled in the finished acrylic compositions, and the texture of the paint itself is faintly disagreeable. That may, of course, be the intention: since I cannot make any sense at all of the painter's extensive statement on his work, I could not say for sure.

At least all the classical references in Tadini's writings do not loom too portentously in his work. Would that one could say the same for Giulio Ciniglia, a selection of whose sculptures makes up the first show to use the Sculpture Court of the Barbican Centre (until December 11). I get increasingly the feeling that one should always fear the worst when a sculptor (or his admirers) insists on his role of continuum and extending the classical tradition in the face of modern madness. It has been said by or on behalf of Ipousteguy, of Piazotta and of many more. But, be it noted, though it is in fact quite true of Henry Moore, you would never

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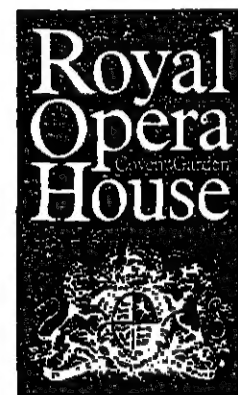
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VOLVO

FASHION by Suzy Menkes

FASHION EDITOR'S

COMMENT

Is London the leader of the pack?

The fashion collections unbuttoned over the last three weeks are supposed to have proved - especially to the Americans - that "London swings again".

It is fashionable to claim that our designers lead where others fear to tread; that styles that have become internationally accepted have been spawned in our own streets.

It is true that our eclectic, eccentric British street style is a fashion inspiration and that we export design talent. But there is an international standard by which all designers who put their collections on a catwalk must be judged.

By that immutable standard of aesthetic judgment, most of our London designer shows are uncreative, unexciting, and unworthy of overseas attention, except for a buyer looking for a collection of pretty clothes.

Nothing wrong with being a stylist

This fact is equally true of collections in Italy, Paris and New York, as well as the other centres where fashion trade fairs are held. The difference is that London designers use our so-called "creativity" as a duster coat to cover up bad make, sloppy details and poor accessorizing.

High fashion is 20 per cent creativity and 80 per cent execution. It is about standards of excellence and a consistent perception of how a woman should look. It is nothing at all to do with being backed by limitless resources (the dream and gripe of many London designers). Zandra Rhodes, who believes passionately in what she is doing and is a truly original fashion talent, put on a show that could stand alongside any international production.

Many so-called designers in Britain give themselves an importance and status far removed from their real role in the fashion world. "Designer collection" is used to describe a range of clothes made by any small company of which one key 'name' is in control.

British street style is a phenomenon

In France, they make a distinction between a 'stylist' and a 'creator' - the latter being a creative designer who sets trends.

There is nothing wrong with being a "stylist". It is professionally more comfortable (and commercially more practical) to change the buttoning on a blazer than to challenge our accepted ideas.

But fashion editors are like theatre critics, who are happy to see either Shakespeare or Cinderella, but like the actors to know which production they are in.

The only fashion area in which Britain really scores is in making individual and original clothes on a one-man-band basis. This kind of skill is being demonstrated at the current Chelsea Crafts Fair and is seen in its finest fashion flowering in our hand-knits.

Our street style is another fashion phenomenon, and one which supplies a surge of ideas - mostly fun, sometimes seminal.

But London's fashion designers seem unable to absorb street style, to assimilate and interpret it.

Between the street and the designer elite in London there is a gulf wider than the Atlantic - and apparently more difficult to cross. Perhaps it is true, as an American expressed it to me in Paris, that the British prefer to wear their fashions than to sell them. Or, to put it another way, ideas are free, but high fashion requires a vast expenditure - of effort, energy and hard work.

The *Knitwear Revolution* by Suzy Menkes is published on Thursday by Bell & Hyman, £10.95.



BOW JEST



Bows have tied a new knot in winter party fashion. The flat black bow in the witty accessory of the season, dressing up slick sharp clothes. They come from head to toe, on shoes, slides, and sparkly suspended earrings. Bow peep, sugar sweet bows decorate shoulders and hems like children's party frocks. Matt black bows are tied Chanel-style in sleek hair for a more sophisticated style. Who ever dreamt it up should take a bow.

Left Neck Bow. For a red and black printed polyester blouse by Nipon, also black/taupe, £45 from Options, Austin Road, Regent Street, W1 and branches; Tizzy, Malvern; L'Hirondelle, Camberley. Hair Bow. In black organza on slide, £9.99 from Schumi, 16 Port Street, SW1 and branches. Belt Bow. Black patent and suede belt by Otto Glanz, £25 from Selfridges. Red perspex earrings from Fiorucci, 126 King's Road, SW3. Black silk skirt from Fenwick.

Right Back Bow. On a black velvet cocktail dress by Bruce Oldfield, £200 to order from 41 Beauchamp Place, SW3. Ear Bow. Tied in pink ribbon on a crystal earring, £35. Wrist Bow. Crystal and jet necklace with black satin bow, £76. By Monty Don from Harvey Nichols; Liberty's; mail order catalogue from 40-43 Rheidol Terrace, Rheidol Mews, London, N1 (enclose sae). Gold plated and black velvet dining chair from £145, Bambou Collection at Harrods.

Hair by AYO for SCHUMI. Make-up by BONNIE for BOOTS NO. 7. Autumn colours from the Cool, Calm and Collected range. Photographs by RUSSELL MALKIN. Story by CHRISTINE PAINELL.



Waist bow. Royal blue silk sash on evening dress with shoulder bows, £160 from all branches of Monsoon. Hair bow. Royal blue pleated satin bow on comb, £7.75 by Graham Smith at Kangol from Harrods hat department. Gift chair from Harrods.

Top right: Silver leather peep toe courts with silver and black asymmetric beaded bow, £180 by Andrea Pfister at Rayne, 57 Brompton Road, SW3; Harrods; Harvey Nichols. Lace lights from Fogal, 30 New Bond Street, W1. **Bottom right:** Black suede court shoes with fuchsia satin bow and lacing at back, £145 from selected branches of Russell & Bromley. Sheer tights from Grable, 27 Conduit Street.



Hair Bow. On a comb in black organza £8.50 by Graham Smith at Kangol from Harrods hat department. **Shoulder bow.** On an asymmetric purple/black wool crepe dress with ties at wrist by Monica Chong, £130 from Simpson, Piccadilly, W1; Numbers, Welbeck Street, W1; The Clothes Shop, Weybridge; Jade, Kew Road, Surrey; Maidens, Chorley; Parkes Oxford; Rosy, Altrincham. Earrings by Adrian Mann.

Top left: Black shoes with red beaded bow, £92, also silver, from Rayne, 15 Old Bond Street, W1. **Bottom left:** Black suede sling-backs with open toe, also lamé, £110 from Manolo Blahnik, 49-51 Old Church Street, SW3.



Social life with the socialists

The social life of socialist France is booming.

On the helpline indicator of economic performance (down means depression) the Paris fashions should have caused a collapse on the Bourse. But while President Mitterrand's government tightened its economic belt and licked its local election wounds, the party machine was in full swing.

Paloma Picasso invited only 250 of her most intimate friends to the chic party she gave on Sunday at the Musée Jacquemart-André. What she spent on the candles (1,000 flares to greet the guests) she saved on her new perfume, which was the *raison d'être* of the party but nowhere in sight.

Next night, Dior took over Maxim's for the Battle of the Blondes. Svelte Parisian chanteuse Sylvie Vartan, dressed bullishly in Dior's scarlet matador's jacket and black trousers, spent the evening

staring frigidly at Ursula Andress's cleavage, decorated (also by Dior) in scarlet and black sequins.

Ms Andress won the first round by sitting next to Gérard Penneroux, the new ready-to-wear designer at Dior in whose honour the party was given. Sylvie Vartan retaliated by commanding Marc Bohan, Dior's couture designer, as her dinner date.

A brilliantly illuminated Chateau Maisons-Lafitte played host for Japanese designer Kenzo on Wednesday night. Just in case a dozen candelabras with dripping beeswax candles, a red carpeted entrance walk flanked with flares and the TV light were not enough to brighten his evening, Kenzo finished his show with a twenty minute display of fireworks. These were viewed through the steaming windows of his transparent tent (proving that people



Kenzo: fashion with fireworks

in glass houses should throw parties).

Inside the celebrated chateau, there were bushels of Japanese flowers (flown in from Tokyo), non stop videos (flown in from America), a fortune teller, a casino, a disco, a concert of classical music, three swiftly ravished buffets and many a mug of champagne.

A rival attraction was staged by Italian photographer Toscani, whose helpmeet, dressed à la Fellini in a ring-master outfit of black tail coat, culled cult figures from the throng to be immortalized on camera. The chosen guests, including our own Steve Strange (in full make-up), our bat designer Stephen Jones (in a fez) and aristocratic model Ines de la Fressange (in Karl's new Chanel) rose to the photographic occasion by turning their appearances into an impromptu cabaret.

Also present at the little gathering, which went on until

5.00 am and closed the collections, were 2,800 intimate friends.

Yves Saint Laurent is the subject of Diana Vreeland's next exhibition at New York's Metropolitan Museum. Paris's favourite son is the perfect subject for the architect because his line evolves so elegantly.

New to his collection were the familiar jersey chemises, this time gathered gently in at the hips above a short slim skirt. New were his mixes of colours for tunics and leather skirts, like lilac and lime yellow. New is the sleeveless dress, cut into a Y-shape from a wide shoulder line. New is the Norfolk back to the safari jacket, elongating the shape and updating the cut.

Africa was the beat that ran through the holiday and evening clothes, coming out in dark, rich prints and swags of beads, reminding us of the days when Saint Laurent searched distant lands for ethnic inspiration. His

sleeveless tops worn with full boule skirts in shot taffeta in fifties fluorescent colours were an echo of early days at Dior. And to remind us of the sensation he once caused with the see-through blouse, they appeared in transparent voile.

"I want to abolish the frontiers between couture and ready-to-wear and think of them all as creators", said culture Minister Jack Lang, when I talked to him at the weekend shows.

Dressed in his familiar casual style in an open-necked shirt, sweater, cord trousers and anorak, Lang elaborated on his plans for the new costume museum at the Louvre, the details of which were announced at a more formal gathering to honour the celebrated Madame Gres.

"The idea of the fashion museum is not just to show off the richness and diversity of French fashion", he explained. "We have got more than 20,000 costumes, but we also want to emphasise the present by showing what is done now in textiles, form and style. It will also be a centre of research."

On the same theme, the Comité Colbert, set up to honour the memory of the first French man to define and elaborate gallic style and taste, has mounted an exhibition. Leading French companies, from perfumiers, to jewellers, to wine chateaux to silversmiths, display their wares, historic and modern, in an imaginative exhibition that underlines the French search for perfection in areas that other countries consider to be frivolities.

ANTI-FREEZE

Fisher's two-tone black and white (Joanna's Tent, Kings Road).

The autumn season is drawn in shades of black and grey and that means that accessories are the spots of colour. Coming through the grey haze is a deep cobalt blue and the inevitable bright red, with other primary shades looking strong against the quiet palette.

THE HOOD is the new winter warmer, fitting snugly round the face and often growing out of the neck of a sweater or pulled down into a cowl. The hood in its own right is the balalaika (from Fenwick and Miss Selfridge) in the bright colours or quieter autumn harvest shades of grape and cranberry.

THE HAT of the season is the beret, set basque-style on a striped band or a leather trim to grip the crown. Kangol have come up with berets in colour (from major stores) but you cannot beat onion-seller navy blue. The beret replaces the military peaked cap, but the new wave have found the fez. Coloured comes from Stephen Jones, 34 Lexington Street, W1.

SCARVES are long and thin, designed to be wrapped twice round the neck or tied fifties-style as a headscarf/hood for extra warmth. Dogtooth checks in black and white look right, so do stripes and geometric squares. Doubly chic is the idea of wearing two scarves in clashing colours: purple with orange, red with fuchsia, turquoise and emerald.

MITTS or fingerless gloves are young fashion-conscious handwear. For more sophisticated looks there are long striped knitted gauntlets (from Fenwick's) or leather gloves with contrast cuffs, especially Nancy

Wrist warmers, or ankle and tummy versions in bands of ribbed knitting, are a stylish way to beat the chill for those who like thermal heat to show. The wide knitted sweatbands for wrists come from C and A. The body version in fuchsia, cobalt blue and black from Whistles (St Christopher's Place and branches.)

BELTS have moved back to the waist this winter, wide at front and back, curved narrower at the sides and newest in shiny black patent.

LEGS are on view again through plain sheer tights or are dressed up in fancy hose decorated in black lace patterns or surfaces with shimmer and sheen (from Harrods hosiery or specialist West End shops like Grable and Fogal.)

SHOES are set on slender waisted heels, relatively low, except for high evening. The newest heels are thickening up and the smartest styles are printed like python.

MAKE-UP is the other way to give colour to the blacks and greys of Autumn fashion. The clean lines of current clothes are echoed in sharply defined make-up used on a plain background face. For the first time for many seasons, the lips are as important as the eyes, with warm reds used to mould the mouth and much stronger colours used for nail polish.

HAIR is sleek and graphic with the asymmetric ideas in clothes sometimes echoed in the basic cut. The small head seems to be the shape of the season, which is just as well if we are to hide our crowning glory under a balalaika hood.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Getting the birdie

Now that he is photographed almost daily, I hope that Nigel Lawson has become more relaxed about facing the camera. Shortly before becoming a minister, he gave *Sunday Times* photographer Sally Soames a difficult time, insisting on seeing the prints before publication. Miss Soames told him that even Mrs Thatcher didn't make that kind of demand. Mr Lawson then insisted on seeing the contacts from which a choice is made. Miss Soames said that in her entire career only one other person had asked her that. "Who was that?" asked the future Chancellor. "Zsa Zsa Gabor," said Miss Soames.

Off beam

Sixty Minutes, BBC TV's new early evening magazine programme, has enough electronic hardware on board to turn the world into a global village. One major purchase is a link vehicle to enable interviews to take place on location for instant transmission. Unfortunately, tall buildings get in the way of this amazing process and one of the few places where the vehicle performs well is the car park at Lime Grove.

Never on Sunday

One telephone call which Mrs Thatcher won't be answering when she is the guest on the *World Phone-In* on the BBC's World Service next Sunday is from Mr Earl Henry who lives on St Helena. Mr Henry would have liked to have placed a call but, on Sundays, there is no telephone service in or out of St Helena. Had there been, he would have asked the Prime Minister why St Helenians, "who are British by culture, descent, tradition and language" don't have the right to become British citizens. He lives in hope of a telex. With just a few days to go before the programme, 47 questions from Johore Bahru, Quissac, Bangalore and points north, south, east and west are awaiting a prime ministerial reply. This is more than awaited previous guests David Attenborough, Yehudi Menuhin, Bobby Charlton and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Uncovered

"On a whirlwind trip to Paris to find John and decide between him and Oliver, she hears of an exciting archaeological find which would make a first-class best-seller as a book. Without consulting her firm etc. etc." So runs the blurb of *Juliet in Publishing*, disinterred this month from the "Twenty-seven Years Ago" column of the literary magazine *Books and Bookmen*. B & B wrote then that the identity of the author, "Elizabeth Churchill", was a mystery. Not any more. E. Churchill is the alias of Richard Hough, more recently famous as the author of *Edwina*, *Countess Mountbatten*. He thought up the pseudonym on the spur of the moment, as the book was going to press. A liberated spirit, even then, Hough granted his heroine, Juliet, both a brilliant career and a fiancé "who displays an interest in publishing and looks like giving up his farming".

BARRY FANTONI



Silent service

Unusually for a professional lobbyist, Roland Freeman, Tory politician turned Social Democrat, whose company is paid £7,500 a week by the GLC to press for its continued existence, is not speaking to the press. "You can't lobby properly if you are always making public pronouncements," he said yesterday. "We have made it a fairly strict rule that the politicians do the talking."

Clean sweep

Fired by this column's obvious partiality to mongoose stories, Dr Georges Ware of the Department of Bacteriology, University of Bristol, is the latest to declare himself. Mongooses are expensive pets, he reminds me, not only because of the delight they take in unpotting house plants, but also because "no mongoose-proof bag clasp has yet been devised". His very own Mingle was kept on cigarettes, which she would ferret out unerringly and destroy. But "perhaps her most memorable and expensive excursion was the day she climbed our chimney, crossed the roof tops and came down the chimney of a house several doors away appearing, covered in soot, during a dinner party. Not satisfied with having soiled the wits of the diners and dusted each one evenly with soot, she sampled their dinner and then returned home by the same route and demanded that I bath her at once". Mingle, Mingle's mate, was even worse, my correspondent adds. The mind boggles.

PHS

Lebanon: no way out for Reagan

Beirut When President Mitterrand arrived at the French ambassador's residence in Beirut yesterday he appeared untroubled, almost nonchalant. In stark contrast was the scene in the French compound 200 yards away. Three coffins were piled outside a dark green military tent. Every few seconds, a man wearing a mask would emerge from the tent. He would tear off the mask and breathe deeply before returning inside.

Even as the President of France was preparing to address his officers in the nineteenth century residence, his dead soldiers were being prepared for their last journey home scarcely a stone's throw away.

Closer concentration on the President's words nevertheless suggested that he was well aware of what the mass slaughter on Sunday really meant. He did not want to talk to journalists. He might make a statement, he said, when he returned to Paris. That was all.

He made no declarations of continued French military support for Lebanon, no expressions of personal admiration for President Amin Gemayel who stood, nervous and red-faced, at his side. The Lebanese officials standing nearest to Mitterrand looked worried; and so they probably should be.

In Paris, French government officials have been making no false promises to the Gemayel regime these past 48 hours. French troops would remain in Beirut "for the present" was all Pierre Mauroy, the Premier, would say, and French diplomats in Beirut are now unwilling to discuss the future of their military mission. Not long ago President Reagan angered the French by declaring that Chad - in whose future the Americans had become much exercised - was in France's field of interest to protect. How easy might it be for President Mitterrand to announce with appropriate understanding that Lebanon was now Washington's problem.

The Lebanese government already understands this. A Lebanese army intelligence officer came up to me a few hours after the bombings that killed more than 200 American and French soldiers. He had already worked out the equation. "Will the Americans now stay?" he asked. "Do you think they will carry on?"

The French could leave without too much loss of face. The Italians might be able to stay on in some humanitarian capacity. The departure of the small British contingent might hardly be noticed. But the Americans cannot. If they leave, none of the Middle Eastern nations whom President Reagan likes to describe as "Arab friends" will trust the United States. How can you place confidence in a superpower which cuts and runs when the going gets tough?

Yet the going is likely to get a lot tougher still and the US is likely to gain few political dividends by its continued presence. Little wonder then that the Syrians and PLO are able to gloat with such unctuous veracity about America's second Vietnam.

Just how the Americans can stay in Lebanon is now the subject of heated discussion in both Washington and Beirut. Yesterday morning, General Paul Kelly, Commander of the US Marine Corps, left Washington for Beirut, ostensibly to visit his men. But the Lebanese government suspects that he is in fact coming to discuss the feasibility of sending a US "security force" into Lebanon, a unit quite separate from the marine contingent, that would act in the



marines' defence, thus permitting the US to fulfil both a peacekeeping and, if necessary, an offensive role. It would also, of course, increase the US presence here.

Even if the marine contingent remained at a ceiling of 1,600 men, it might need an equal number to defend them in the absence of other multinational force contingents. So how high could American military strength go? 3,000? 6,000?

President Reagan has often said that he sees no reason why the numbers should grow. But that was before last Sunday. Without the multinational force, the Lebanese army could not hope to rule even the Lebanese capital.

The military quagmire looks awesome. The political trap in

which the Americans now find themselves is equally disturbing. Having committed the US to the preservation of President Gemayel's regime, Mr Reagan has now lent his country's name to a reconciliation conference which - if it starts in Geneva in six days time - will discuss nothing less than the breaking of relations between Lebanon and America's ally, Israel.

If the conference is to succeed, then Lebanon will emerge a more Arab - or "Arabized" - country, closer to Damascus than before and almost hostile to Israel. Syria believes that its proteges at the meeting - the triumvirate leadership of the so-called National Salvation Front, which includes the Druze leader Walid Jumblatt - will ensure that Israel loses every advantage it might have gained from its invasion of Lebanon last year.

Syria will have a representative at that conference, but the Americans suspect that Syria, along with Iran, played a role in Sunday's bombings. So can the US accept a conference result that does not suit its interests or which coincides with the interests of those whom the White House believes are America's enemies?

The administration in Washington talks of "retaliation" for the bombings. But against whom? Against Iran? Or against Syria, with its carpets of Soviet-made and - in some cases - Soviet-crewed missiles?

Other alternatives are open to the US. With the presidential elections coming ever closer, it would do Mr Reagan no domestic harm to move politically nearer to Israel, to permit Israel - the Arabs would contend it was encouraging Israel - to attack Syria, although the Israelis are unlikely to have much enthusiasm for such a conflict unless their occupation of southern Lebanon becomes more painful.

For its part, Syria is still prepared to walk the tightrope, with Moscow's assistance. When the battleship New Jersey arrived off Beirut, the Russians obligingly shipped SS-21 ground-to-ground missiles into Syria. If the Americans could shoot at the Syrians from a battleship, the Soviets were prepared to make sure that the Syrians could shoot at the battleship.

It might be well for Lebanon - and for the American marines there - if some kind of dialogue could begin between Washington and Moscow on the Middle East before events get further out of control. Given President Reagan's current thinking on East-West relations and the suspicions of Mr Andropov's geriatric leadership, Lebanon is likely to move further into chaos, helped along by the carnage of last Sunday's bombings.

Robert Fisk

Brian Crozier

Concessions as before

True believers are always disappointed by the performance of their political leaders once in office. The charge has been made that British and American foreign policies have changed but little since the advent of conservative governments. What, ever the truth of the charge, in Britain and the United States it can certainly be sustained in the Federal Republic, which labours under the anomaly that Chancellor Helmut Kohl has the same foreign minister, Dr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, as did Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

It is rather as though Dr Owen (before his conversion) and Mr Cyrus Vance still presided over the Foreign Office and the State Department respectively. The Bavarian leader, Dr Franz Josef Strauss, had hoped to get the job, but without Genscher and his band of liberals (FDP), Kohl would lose his majority.

Unfortunately for the western alliance, Genscher (unlike Owen) has not undergone repentance and conversion. If any doubt remained, it should have been dispelled by his predictably abortive 11 hours of talks with Mr Gromyko last week in Vienna.

The Soviet foreign minister is reported to have brusquely rejected all Dr Genscher's arguments urging reconsideration of President Reagan's latest proposals for a "build-down" of long-range nuclear weapons. My information is that the President made these proposals in the first place after having been repeatedly urged to do so by Genscher.

More alarming than Gromyko's snub is that the two men agreed that the planning staffs of their foreign ministries should henceforth meet regularly to discuss disarmament in particular. Their first meeting will be held very soon.

The arrangement is unfortunate in a technical sense because the Soviet foreign ministry (as I explained in *The Times* last February) does not formulate foreign policy anyway, but takes its instructions from the International Department of the Central Committee.

But the more substantial objection is that despite Genscher's disclaimer in Vienna, his initiatives amount to a usurpation of America's natural role in the handling of arms control negotiations with the Soviets.

The German foreign minister is formally committed to Nato's "two-track decision" of December 1979 to install the new American missiles if no progress had been made by the end of 1983 in negotiations with the Soviet Union on the control of intermediate-range missiles in Europe. But he is visibly the captive of his own phrase, frequently uttered during the long years of Social Democratic rule: "There is no alternative to détente."

Détente is dead, but Genscher has not noticed its demise. His new slogan is "continuity of foreign policy". Like Mitterrand, Genscher favours aid to Nicaragua, opposition to El Salvador and friendship for Swapo in Namibia. Unlike Mitterrand, he favours more Western concessions to the Soviets in the Geneva talks, presumably to avoid the need to deploy the new weapons. (To be fair, France is not committed to deploying the Pershing IIs and the cruise missiles, which makes it easier for the French President to take a tough line.)

One of the most unfortunate consequences of Kohl's decision to keep Genscher in his old job has been that Strauss, in his disappointment, has been driven to upstage his rival. His most spectacular, though not his only, move in this undeclared contest was his involvement in the billion-mark credit to East Berlin by a consortium of private banks.

Although there was no formal government guarantee for the credit, it has been claimed that if East Berlin does not meet the interest payments (at about 6 per cent), the West Germans will be able to put pressure on the defaulters by cutting payments to East Germany under existing treaty arrangements. This is an unconscionable claim, and it is hard to see the credit as anything other than a demonstration by Strauss that he is not necessarily the ultimate hardliner he is usually held to be, and can be flexible on occasion; and above all, that he is better fitted to run West Germany's foreign policy than the present incumbent.

In the last resort, this kind of exercise is inevitably damaging in that it amounts to a contest to discover which of the two men is the better at making concessions to the East. It is a contest which, in the nature of things, Genscher is the more likely to win.

Only Helmut Kohl can end it on terms favourable to the alliance by exerting the kind of leadership in foreign affairs which as yet he has so clearly been reluctant to do.

Roger Scruton

Keeping in tune with tradition

Left-wing historians wax emotional over the "class solidarity" which grew from the misery of the Industrial Revolution, and which, according to their version of events - was the principal impulse behind the Labour movement. I should like to pay tribute to another kind of solidarity which also has its origins in the Industrial Revolution, but which has proved more durable - the solidarity of the brass band.

The brass band movement is as old as the Labour movement and indeed, at the outset, hardly distinguishable from it. The Besses o' th' Barn Band, for example, was already active in 1821 and acquired its present fame after 1880, when the great Alexander Owen came to it from the equally old and equally famous Black Dyke Mills.

Most of the bands originated in works and collieries, and the instruments were purchased with money contributed by the players themselves. They have remained associations of musical amateurs, with all the catholicity of taste and variety of achievement that that implies. But they are also more than associations, for they have gathered to themselves an extraordinary social ambience which is unmistakably British in its subdued pageantry and phlegmatic togetherness, and at the same time no mere rally of like-minded eccentrics.

The brass band movement, like the Labour Movement, has been associated with non-conformist religion (and with the Salvation Army in particular); with temperance, self-help and trade union rights. It bears the unmistakable imprint of the industrial proletariat. Unlike the Labour movement, however, it has not made a fetish of its origins and so has experienced no difficulty in transcending them. It endures as a remarkable institution of popular culture, uniting its members from every trade and every social class. The Black Dyke Mills band numbers among its players a joiner, a teacher, several students, an engineer, a stores manager, a wool buyer, an organ builder and tuner, a telecommunications engineer, a school caretaker, an export manager for a firm of sanitary goods, a carpet warehouse owner and a retired director of a manufacturing company. That mixture is by no means untypical.

The aesthete will look down upon such fertile forms of association, and upon the musical culture which they generate. For it is a culture wholly without "authenticity", a culture of transcriptions, medleys and arrangements, much of it based on hymn tunes, marches and popular song. It draws upon the common fund of musical, religious and moral experience, from which non-conformist religion shaped the social order of the industrial towns. How could such a congeries of old-fashioned decency measure up to the exacting standards of high art?

It is true that the bandstand is frequently wearisome, and seldom very subtle. But it is worth noting that the brass band movement has done more to spread the works of



Hatch: ironing out the seams

own internal judgments without resorting to measures of popular acclaim. Indeed, when virtually every other broadcasting medium sees ratings as the ultimate goal, does the public need one more to chase the same hare? It is an argument which the BBC is peculiarly badly suited to address, since its foundation, the idea that a battle between the ideas of the past and the call of the future, is one which most BBC officials will publicly deny exists.

But Radio 4's difficulties are unlikely to escape public attention. Next month sees the inauguration of an organization called The Voice of the Listener, a pressure group formed out of the early fears for the future of Radio 4. Its founders, who include the writer and broadcaster Jocelyn Hay, are adamant that it will not be a BBC-baiting body opposed to any change, but will attempt to pursue a constructive dialogue with the corporation.

The pro-Radio 4 bias is clear among its ranks, however, and both Francis and Hatch can expect some serious scrutiny when they come to meddle once more with the minority's beloved mornings.

David Hewson

The gruesome shot that could kill Death Row

New York There is a new execution room at the state prison in New Jersey. In keeping with the latest fashion, it is equipped for putting criminals to death by poisonous injection. It has a telephone in case of a last minute reprieve, and, in the event of the call coming through after the technicians have administered the lethal mixture, there is an emergency medical trolley with drugs that might reduce the effect of the injection and a machine to restore the rhythm of a failing heart.

Considering the confusion surrounding the death penalty in the US, and the scope for delays and eleventh hour dramas, the prospect of prison officials desperately trying to revive a prisoner their colleagues had earnestly been trying to kill no longer seems remote.

The emergency trolley in the New Jersey death chamber is, after all, a recognition of the possibility. And the recent experience of James Autry provided a grotesque example of the fine line between life and judicial death. It has also compounded confusion and uncertainty and

intensified public argument over capital punishment.

Autry, who had murdered a grocery shop assistant for three dollars worth of beer, was in execution chamber at Huntsville, Texas, about to become the second American to die by the new method. Although the time fixed for his death was a minute after midnight he had been strapped to a hospital trolley and wheeled to the chamber an hour earlier. Catheters were inserted into veins in his forearms and a harmless saline solution began to flow through them. Technicians were ready to squirt syringes of lethal drugs into the solution at the appointed time. Thus prepared, Autry lay staring at the ceiling. He had almost an hour to wait.

Outside the jail a crowd was chanting "kill him, kill him". Many of the people were schoolboys and college students who grinned for the photographers.

While this was going on, a lawyer at the Supreme Court in Washington wrote an appeal for a stay of execution. Half an hour before midnight a judge granted it. Prison officials kept Autry strapped down for another hour, in case the stay should be reversed.

He went to the death chamber because of the Supreme Court's impatience with legal manoeuvrings which delay most executions indefinitely. There are 1,230 people in American death cells and many have been kept alive for years by lawyers' exploitation of technicalities. Since the death penalty was restored in 1976 only seven prisoners have been executed.

There is evidence that the new method of execution is not so swift and painless as its proponents claim. A court in Washington has ordered the government's food and drug administration to investigate. A judge says there is substantial evidence that lethal injection poses a serious risk of cruel and protracted death.

Correction

The BBC Pronouncing Dictionary of British Names, referred to by Philip Howard yesterday, is published by the Oxford University Press, price £6.95.

Trevor Fishlock



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

HOLDING THE LINE

Some decisions had to be taken quickly, such as the airlifting of a new company of U.S. Marines from North Carolina to replace the one that was virtually wiped out in the explosion at Beirut airport on Sunday Morning. Others either have been taken, or will be in the next day or two, simply to maintain the continuity of the multinational peace-keeping operations and to make the lives of its members more secure, their positions more defensible.

But there are also strategic decisions to be taken, and those should not be governed by an immediate, inevitably emotional reaction to what has happened. To pull out in panic, spectacularly rewarding an act of savage and unprovoked violence, would be clearly wrong. But it would be equally wrong to allow righteous anger to dictate a pre-empting of decisions which require careful thought, by extending or expanding the multinational commitment to a task which is not clearly defined.

The immediate task is to hold the line. But while the military men are doing that, the political leaders have to define more clearly what the line is that is being held and to decide whether it is tenable militarily or politically. If not, they must establish a new line to secure, or to fall

back on. There is an urgent need to clarify objectives in Lebanon, and to reassess the means required to achieve them.

That was true before the Sunday bombings, and it is certainly not less true now. There should be consultations, perhaps a high-level conference, between the four powers involved in the multinational force, followed by a joint statement making it clear both to the Lebanese and to the citizens of their own countries what it is they are trying to do in Lebanon, and how they propose to do it. For as things stand, the public in all five countries is thoroughly bewildered.

One suggestion currently canvassed is that the multinational force should be withdrawn and replaced by a United Nations force, whose impartiality - it is said - would be generally respected. That shows a touching faith in the United Nations, often displayed by people who a year ago were rather contemptuous of it. Then, Israel and the United States were unwilling to entrust peacekeeping duties in Beirut to the UN, fearing that it would stabilize a situation which they hoped to modify. Now it is Syria and the Soviet Union which oppose UN involvement, believing that the tide of war has turned in their

favour and not wishing it to be checked.

A UN peacekeeping operation can function only when both sides are willing to stabilize the front. It works by stationing lightly armed units between opposing forces so that clashes between them cannot occur by accident, or if they do, can be brought quickly under control. Such units are neither equipped nor mandated to resist a deliberate offensive by either side. Thus if it was quite unrealistic, for instance, to blame Unifil last year for failing to stop the Israeli invasion.

The multinational force, and particularly its American component, has undertaken a role going far beyond that, making its own firepower (especially that of the supporting ships offshore) a crucial element in the military balance. To withdraw it now would in itself radically modify the existing balance, making the present ceasefire lines almost certainly untenable by the Lebanese Army. Only if the forces opposed to the Lebanese Army were willing to accept the situation as it stands, including the existence of an independent Maronite power-base in Beirut, would a United Nations peacekeeping force be able to police the present ceasefire lines. It is fairly clear that that is not the case.

MUTUAL CONFIDENCE BUILDING

Today's meeting in Helsinki once again brings together representatives of the thirty-five states of East and West that signed the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. This time they are meeting at ambassadorial level to prepare for the chumsy named Conference on Confidence (sic) and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, the first stage of which is to open in Stockholm in January.

Like the Helsinki agreement, the original impulse came from the Soviet Union but was then transmuted by negotiation into a diplomatic gain for the West. The Soviet Union wanted a European disarmament conference on terms which would have detached it from the Helsinki agreement and made it little more than a platform for the more vacuous and declaratory of Soviet proposals. The West insisted throughout the long negotiations in Madrid, which reviewed the whole of the Helsinki Final Act, on an agenda restricting discussions to measures that would be militarily significant, politically binding, verifiable, and extended over the whole of Europe. It also insisted on tying the conference firmly into the Helsinki follow-up process, so that the Soviet Union could not float off the military aspects of European security and abandon its commitments to the rest of the Helsinki package, especially the parts on human rights and humanitarian measures.

As a result, there can be some

hope that the Stockholm conference will get down to serious discussions on extending the confidence-building measures originally agreed at Helsinki in 1975. These obliged each participating state to notify all the others not less than twenty-one days in advance of ground force manoeuvres involving more than 25,000 personnel within 250 kilometres of borders.

There was also provision for voluntary notification of smaller manoeuvres and military movements and for inviting observers to manoeuvres of any size.

Measures such as these are not to be confused with arms control or disarmament. They put no limits on weapons or manpower. Their aim is to increase "transparency" and thereby to increase confidence and reduce the risk of surprise attack. Obviously it would still be possible to launch an attack under cover of a manoeuvre which had been duly notified, but at least the other side would have been given the chance to prepare. The advantage may lie more in the other possibility - that a major manoeuvre, launched without warning would immediately set the alarm bells ringing.

Either way the results are bound to be modest at this stage, especially as Soviet observance has been limited to the letter of the agreement, while Western and neutral states have gone beyond it. Nato, for instance, has invited observers to nearly all major exercises, the Warsaw Pact to only about half, and even

at those there were complaints from Western observers about excessive restrictions and the issue of unusable binoculars. Western and neutral states have also notified manoeuvres below the threshold of 25,000 men, whereas, except for Hungary, the Warsaw Pact has not. And the Soviet Union is accused of having failed to supply agreed information about a major manoeuvre in 1981.

However, none of this invalidated the attempt to extend confidence-building measures. The Helsinki measures were a tentative beginning. Stockholm aims to extend the area covered and the obligations accepted by participants. For instance, the manpower threshold could be lowered, the period of notice extended and military movement of all kinds included. Beyond that there are many ideas for a second stage of the conference which might include constraints to inhibit surprise attack, such as banning all bridge-building equipment within 200 miles of a border.

Obviously none of these measures can prevent war. As Colonel Alford has pointed out in an IISS study, "the measures will work only if both sides want them to work and believe that the measures will enhance their own security". Nevertheless, with East-West relations in such a parlous state it is all the more important to sustain negotiations in areas where some elements of mutual interest survive.

Bias in teaching

From Dr Paul Hurst

Sir, The problem of ideological bias in social-science based courses is a good deal more complex than the letter from Terence Miller (October 14) might suggest.

For example, in my own special field (education policy in developing countries) there are important controversies between the conventional "liberal" view that education promotes the social and economic development of all and the radical "Marxist" view that it tends to serve the interests of ruling elites. I would be failing in my duty to students if I failed to explore this issue and guilty of moral and intellectual cowardice if I failed to state my own views.

Some of my students (postgraduate, mainly from overseas) criticise me for not coming clean at the outset, since I try to present the issue initially in neutral terms. As far as marking is concerned, it is usually possible to put aside one's own concurrence or lack of it with the views expressed by students from assessment of the technical merits of the arguments and evidence for their case. Nevertheless, and particularly with students who may range from radical Latin American refugees to Islamic fundamentalists, it is sometimes difficult to feel sure one has entirely cleared one's mind of bias.

One system, which requires marking by at least one other internal examiner, plus scrutiny by an external examiner from another university, is enormously helpful in correcting possible bias and it is hard to believe that one could easily assemble a set of examiners who would agree on a consistent ideological line.

I thought my views were pretty radical until I discovered they had recently been denounced as ideologically incorrect from a Marxist viewpoint in an American academic journal.

My point, Sir, is that one cannot teach a subject involving moral judgments without making them. The teacher's aim should be to explore ideological issues as widely as possible, state his own position,

and assess students' responses as neutrally as possible.

This is not what to do and an ideological witch-hunt as proposed by Terence Miller, whether conducted by HMIs, principals, vice-chancellors, or Secretaries of State, will make it more difficult. Education is about helping people make up their own minds: most of my students seem to disagree with me, and good luck to them.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL HURST,
University of London Institute of Education,
20 Bedford Way, WC1,
October 14.

Greenham Common

From the Chairman of Newbury District Council

Sir, The media have given considerable publicity to the activities of the so-called Peace Women of Greenham Common since they set up their illegal encampment. Virtually without exception they have been portrayed as a heroic group bravely enduring many hardships in support of their declared cause.

On the other hand the district council has been cast in a less favourable light as a leading agent in the persecution of these supposedly defenceless women. Mrs Bazley, in her letter to you (October 19) obviously subscribes to this latter view in her allegations that "Newbury District Council has imposed a series of petty restrictions on these women and thus is responsible for the conditions prevailing at the camp."

For the record, soon after the camp was set up attempts were made by the council's officers to persuade the women to find an alternative site on land not forming part of the common to avoid an inevitable confrontation.

Being shrewd, the ladies chose to defy the council, anticipating that this gesture would precipitate prosecutions and considerable attendant publicity. They must be satisfied at having achieved that purpose, but those who support the Peace Camp should be more objective and refrain from maligning

the council for acting in the democratic interests of the majority of its ratepayers.

The council has properly been concerned only to seek an end to an act of illegal trespassing in contravention of the by-laws that apply to commons in this district, making no distinction between the Peace Women, other itinerants and despoilers of public open spaces.

The women have freely chosen to live in such primitive conditions and people like Mrs Bazley should not seek to apportion blame elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
E. G. GOLBY, Chairman,
Newbury District Council,
Council Offices,
Market Street,
Newbury,
Berkshire,
October 20.

'Sits vac' at FO

From Mr John Doyle

Sir, As a Jesuit-educated former Commercial Secretary, I should like to comment on Mr C. R. Head's letter (October 15).

Mr Head, I think, misconceives the Commercial Secretary's function. The Commercial Secretary seeks to help the jet-lagged businessman cope with "the realities of the commercial life" by reminding him of which country he is in, rescuing him from the airport at 2 o'clock in the morning when he has neglected to obtain an exit visa and/or income-tax clearance; warning him off unsuitable local firms; advising him not to quote his prices in sterling; and pointing out the trade literature in the local language, advising on the market potential for his goods and the strength of the competition.

Commercial Secretaries do not sell goods: goods sell goods provided they are produced at the right quality at the price at the right place at the right time.

Yours faithfully,
J. DOYLE,
23 Carleton Avenue,
Wallingford,
Surrey,
October 15.

Cost no object in life-saving aim

From Professor J. Stewart Cameron

Sir, Your leader (October 19) takes me to task for drawing attention to the 2,000 people dying unnecessarily in the United Kingdom each year from renal failure, on the grounds that this action lacks "concern for orderly medical administration". Of the many points at issue you almost ignore the most important which is the twenty years of effort by the community of physicians caring for kidney patients to provide detailed statistics on success rates, rehabilitation and costs, an exercise which remains unique in medicine.

The administrative response to these data has been in every other developed nation a provision for renal failure which makes treatment available to all those who need and can benefit from it. Uniquely in the United Kingdom this treatment has been reserved by cost containment to a privileged few, leaving those such as "older" patients over 50 years of age and diabetics largely untreated.

Only after a decade of frustration, during which no expansion of services has taken place, has our anger finally exploded. Faced with the knowledge that (for example) Sicily has more centres than in the whole of England (576 dialysis places in 49 units) who could not do likewise?

You suggest that the "queue" for treatment for renal failure is little different in kind from that for a prostate operation or hip replacement. This can only have been written in ignorance of the fact that there is no "queue" for the treatment of terminal renal failure because, unlike those in discomfort with enlarged prostates or painful hips, by definition such patients die within days or weeks.

The amount of money involved is fortunately rather small, since renal failure is rare; some £30m to £50m per annum could transform the outlook for those at present dying. There are occasions in which exceptional action needs to be taken, and clearly this is one such. How is this money to be found?

It is well known that we spend a smaller proportion of our per capita gross national product on health than any other developed country and that the health service is already more cost-effective than any other system. Whilst some economies are possible, these are limited by the history and geography of the health service and aggravated by chronic lack of investment by successive governments.

Rather than containing or cutting costs, we should be seeking to increase our expenditure on health by 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent of GNP to accommodate the rising expectations of our aging population.

Finally, the action I have suggested to draw attention to this tragedy is not illegal, despite statements to the contrary. Indeed it is the duty of a doctor to draw the coroner's attention to any death in which the circumstances are doubtful and should only sign if he is satisfied. Can anyone feel satisfied with such deaths in such circumstances?

We must hope that the Secretary of State's response to the All-Party Disabling Group, when they meet to discuss this issue on November 1, will be a positive one. I am, Sir,
J. STEWART CAMERON,
Guy's Hospital Medical School,
Clinical Science Laboratories,
Guy's Tower,
St Thomas' Hospital,
London Bridge, SE1,
October 20.

Temple Bar

From Lady Sugden

Sir, Temple Bar (letter, October 15) has been living in peaceful retirement for over 100 years, in a distant corner of the grounds of the eccentric and happily frequented mansion known as Theobalds, near Enfield. It is possible there to escape momentarily from embroilers, picture framers, claretiers, orientiers (to name the merest handful of pursuits possible in that house) and wander down green forest rides to find in Temple Bar a gateway to any amount of delicious romantic nostalgia.

I see no good purpose in the notion of re-erecting it among the tower blocks of central London, where it would be just another monument, wrong in scale, and at a risk from traffic pollution. It should stay where it is.

Yours sincerely,
MARIAN SUGDEN,
Trinity Hall,
Cambridge,
October 17.

Nyerere's experiments

From Mr Oscar S. Kambona

Sir, Lord Hatch's search for positive results in the rule of President Nyerere of Tanzania and his suggestion (October 10) that he be emphasised must be questioned.

First of all, to look for something positive in the President's performance is to try to find the proverbial shining needle in a very dark haystack of negative results. In his search, Lord Hatch has seized on what he describes as "social miracles", first in alleged educational and literary expansion to 79 per cent of the population; second in an alleged increase of life expectancy from 40 years to 52 years by 1983.

How could literacy possibly have expanded to the remarkable figure of 79 per cent when the Government has banned the opening of new schools by voluntary agencies while completely failing to open new government schools or even to maintain the existing ones? How can literacy have expanded to anything like that level when the Government

Farmer and tenant system in decline

From Mr Henry Fell and others

Sir, The agricultural landlord and tenant system which has, for the past 150 years and more, been considered to be an essential element in efficient farm and estate management, is in a serious state of decline.

The reasons, and there are many, are not hard to find, but they certainly include the results of much hasty and ill-conceived past legislation. The consequence is that no landowner can be sensibly advised to let a farm when it becomes vacant. He must either sell or retain possession and many estates, either private or institutional, are now farming in hand very large acreages indeed.

The effect on the countryside and the rural infrastructure of successive amalgamations and the subsequent disappearance of family farming is very serious, not just to agriculture but to the nation as a whole.

There is also now a rapid growth in farming arrangements - partnerships, contract or share farming - arrangements which are often short term and designed to circumvent the present unreasonable landlord/tenant legislation, rather than to provide for the land to be farmed in the most effective way.

We believe that unless confidence in the letting of farms can be restored, such arrangements will proliferate over the next decade and will have a further detrimental effect on farming in this country and on the countryside. We therefore greatly welcome the Government's announcement that it will promote legislation in the present parliamentary session to "increase the number of farming tenancies".

Landowners and tenants alike have waited a long time for this opportunity to restore practical logic to agricultural holdings legislation. We cannot expect to have further parliamentary time for many years, so it is particularly important that the minister comes forward with the right formula. Next time will be too late.

Nuclear industry policy

From Mr J. I. Dearnley

Sir, If nuclear reactors are to be sold to countries presently without them, as Professor Fell suggests (October 11) we should hope that the obsolete British Magnox design will not be a contender. As Argentina has earlier discovered, this reactor type can be operated to produce military plutonium of high purity without the need to "shut down" to give the game away to IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) observers (always assuming that there might be any: the "safeguard" regime is voluntary).

Shortly stated, the combination of irresponsible nuclear salesmanship and national ambitions will ever undermine attempts to prevent proliferation and the proof is now all over the globe.

India, the host country for the World Energy Conference, sensibly pursues a "cost-benefit" policy and sources for its main energy needs: she has her own nuclear industry, which has given untold trouble and expense, as well as the 1974 bomb.

No doubt she and other energy-hungry countries would welcome assistance from our non-nuclear power industries, if they are not driven into extinction.

Yours faithfully,
J. I. DEARNLEY,
Garden Cottage,
Smeetham Hall Lane,
Bulmer, Sudbury,
Suffolk,
October 12.

From Ms Renée Chudleigh and Mr William Cannell

Sir, Professor Ian Fells (October 11) argued that the British Government

The National Farmers' Union and Country Landowners' Association have proposed a useful framework but, in the context of encouraging change, it proposed only one major change, the abolition of the two-generation security of tenure for farm tenants.

Now, two years on from the NFU/CLA concordat, it is evident to all of us that unless the basis of that "package" is widened to include measures that will positively create more tenancies and more mobility - retirement, tenancy transfer in readiness for retirement, fiscal inducements to retain small and medium-sized farms, a sound rent formula, and taxation changes that eliminate the discrimination against owners to let their land - the Government will be presiding over an ineffective holding operation at a time when a more imaginative and radical approach could rejuvenate the very foundation of our industry, open up opportunities for the many expensively trained people to whom a tenancy is the only route into farming, and bring new life and vigour to our rural communities.

The responsibility now lies with Parliament. The Minister of Agriculture can be assured of widespread support from within agriculture if he opts for this broad approach. We should, however, be in no doubt whatsoever that the great majority of farmers, landowners and land agents do not believe that the NFU/CLA agreement is any more than a basis on which to build.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY R. FELL,
J. H. ANDERSON,
WELLINGTON,
PEART OF WORKINGTON,
GERAINT HOWELLS,
ROBERT MACLENNAN,
NIGEL H. CLUTTON,
C. R. FERENS,
R. B. WHITTLE,
RICHARD STOREY,
Worbury House,
Worbury, Brigg,
South Humberside.

should "actively" back the export of Magnox reactors to Third World countries, because Magnox is the "safest and the best". If the Magnox is really the best, then why is Britain abandoning both it and the AGR (advanced gas-cooled reactor) after three decades of development in favour of the PWR (pressurized water reactor)?

Professor Fell admits that the problems of nuclear proliferation are considerable. In the present world climate, which is verging on a nuclear trade war, this underestimates the problem by a large margin. Britain is a founding signatory of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, and as such has a special responsibility which cannot be discharged by dumping the thorax questions relating to the treaty in the lap of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency).

The nuclear industry is a dead duck if it is forced to rely on domestic orders. Declining electricity demand in the West has brought that industry to its knees and has revealed the central feature of nuclear economics: that it is a high-risk, capital-intensive venture where tomorrow never comes.

One might ask Professor Fell how the millions of peasants whose daily struggle is to collect enough firewood to keep warm or cook a meal will be helped by nuclear electricity - to which they have no access.

Yours faithfully,
RENEE CHUDLEIGH,
WILLIAM CANNELL,
Friends of the Earth,
377 City Road, EC1,
October 12.

My guests are fed on real cheddar (the finest cheese in the world), our other great traditional, and a wonderful range of new British cheeses coming from small farms and dairies. Many of these guests are food-writers from home and abroad and one of the most appreciative has been Madame Pierre-André, world authority on cheese.

With the backing of Mrs Elizabeth David, Mr Derek Cooper, Dr J. G. Davis, and three great London cheese-factors, I have appealed to the Ministry of Agriculture to give encouragement to these important products, but with no response.

Perhaps we can persuade a new minister to take notice of the need for a policy which will decrease our dependence on imports, reduce our production of unsaleable block cheese, and eventually add considerably to our exports.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK RANCE,
Jessamine Cottage,
Srealey,
Reading,
Berkshire,
October 18.

In addition, the early independence Government consisted of a positive-minded and forward looking collective leadership which not only talked about development but was also able to guide the process constructively. The effect of Nyerere's authoritarianism has been negative, leading rather than to development. Of all the leaders of TANU (Tanganyikan African National Union) who participated in the independence process he alone remains in splendid isolation, with his "miracles only mirages".

Comments on the African scene often seem happy to support political systems which they themselves would not care to live under. The Tanzanian people would appreciate less sycophancy and more realistic and honest appraisals from their friends of the true conditions into which their country has deteriorated.

Yours faithfully,
OSCAR S. KAMBONA,
70 Perpetua House,
Tabard Street, SE1.

False economy on housekeeping

From Mr J. F. Q. Switzer

Sir, The Chairman of the Housing Working Party of the Royal Town Planning Institute has drawn attention (October 20) to the deteriorating housing stock of this country and says that "a major crisis is looming as the houses constructed in the building boom of the 1880s and 1890s reach their hundredth anniversary."

That is not the end of the matter, however, because the quality of building in the present century has progressively declined; successive generations of houses will have shorter lives and will all therefore tend to expire together - we have had a forecast of this with the demolition of local authority flats only 20 years old because of bad design and poor materials in the 1960s. On top of all this, recent financial cut-backs have increased the rate of deterioration.

The crisis is not limited to houses.

The Times Educational Supplement on September 30 carried a detailed report on the deterioration of school buildings and significantly made the point that routine maintenance of older buildings was being neglected because a disproportionate amount of the limited budget had to go on correcting original design faults in post-war schools, particularly leaking flat roofs. And in addition to buildings we have the problems of crumbling roads, leaking water mains and collapsing sewers.

It has often been said that there are no votes in sewers. Equally a study of the economics of sewers does not attract much academic glory. As a nation we have been able to adopt these attitudes because our Victorian and Edwardian forebears built so solidly, both above and below the ground, that we have literally been able to live on capital. But when Mr Perry, the chairman of the RTPI working party, uses the words "a major crisis is looming" he does not exaggerate. If we pretend that he does, then the crisis will hit us that much sooner and that much harder.

In your first leader today (October 21) you say that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is keen to open up the debate on public spending. I hope that these major questions of how much we need to spend on maintaining and replacing the urban fabric will be included in that debate and that public authorities and the electorate will face up to the burden of accumulated neglect.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. Q. SWITZER,
Sidney Sussex College,
Cambridge,
October 21.

Gibraltar shipping

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Seamen

Sir, Much of what Gibraltar's Minister for Economic Development and Trade writes (October 13) about the colony's small but growing merchant shipping fleet may be true, but it is not the whole truth.

Ships are being transferred from the traditional maritime countries of northern Europe to Gibraltar for precisely the same reasons why shipowners register vessels in the new most notorious flag of convenience, flag states, Liberia and Panama. They do it to escape the fiscal regimes and social security obligations of the country of ownership and often also to avoid employing nationals of that country.

Another advantage for shipowners is that a flag of convenience country might, on paper, have adequate laws covering safety, but in practice such legislation is barely enforced because there is no proper shore-based maritime administration to do so. Our information suggests that, regrettably, this is true of Gibraltar.

An additional concern for the National Union of Seamen is that the Gibraltar registered fleet not only comprises predominantly small vessels (over half are under 500 tons and therefore statistically most at risk of casualty) but most of them are also over 15 years old, the age at which ships are regarded as due for replacement.

By contrast, only a quarter of UK registered ships were built more than 15 years ago. It is small wonder therefore that we have thought twice before agreeing to man the Gibraltar fleet.

Yours faithfully,
JIM SLATER, General Secretary,
National Union of Seamen,
Maritime House,
Old Town,
Clapham, SW4,
October 14.

'The peacekeeper'

From Sir Peter Blaker, MP for Blackpool South (Conservative)

Sir, In his eagerness to berate Jaeh Kirkpatrick, Sir John Whitmore (October 21) has himself fallen victim to the perverse use of language he so deplores.

The MX missile is not called "the peacekeeper" - that was the name given to the Colt .45 in the 1880s - but "the peacekeeper". As he will recognise, the different meanings (and the weapons) are worlds apart. I fear it is on such misunderstandings that much of the present nuclear debate is founded.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BLAKER,
(Vice-Chairman, Peace Through Nato),
30 St James's Square, SW1,
October 21.

This above all

From Mr J. Haworth

Sir, The choir library register of Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, had an entry: "God is gone up" - top shelf, right.

Yours truly,
J. HAWORTH,
2 Grosvenor Road,
Chiswick, W4,
October 18.

SPECTRUM

Poet, novelist, critic, journalist, broadcaster - Philip Oakes was not, however, born to sing the blues. His only attempt ended in failure, with the consolation that his successor in Mick Mulligan's Magnolia Jazz Band was one George Melly. In the second of three extracts from the forthcoming final volume of his autobiographical trilogy, he describes the passions, the pathos and the personalities of the London jazz scene as he knew and savoured it in 1951.

The good time gang

I lay on the floor of the bedroom in Chelsea and listened to George Melly snoring. It was six in the morning and no one else was awake. George had the best bed because it was George's room. Two other bodies were clasped together on the cot next to it.

The rest of us, curled on mattresses and huddled beneath overcoats, were there because it had been late when we left the London Jazz Club (the band had played a dozen choruses of "Get Out of Here" before the basement emptied) and later still when we struggled from the café opposite the Windmill Theatre. The last tube had long gone and there was a grille-like porcellous barrier the entrance to Piccadilly Underground.

Earlier that year George had arrived from Liverpool wearing a tight blue suit, his face blotched with gentian violet. He had impetigo, he explained, but he thought the colour of the ointment quite flattering. He also suffered from a barber's rash which glowed hotly above the collar of his shirt. His hair had been cropped at the back so that a plume of oily bristles stood up from the crown of his head and his lips were wet, red and negroid.

George was an anarchist and a surrealist. He was also, he let it be known, a homosexual although he showed more than a passing interest in women. He had a job as the assistant curator of an art gallery where he gave readings from the works of Kurt Schwitters, ending each poem with the prescribed smashing of wine glasses.

On two or three evenings a week he sang with Mick Mulligan's Magnolia Jazz Band, shouting traditional blues into a biscuit tin (perfect, he said, for amplification) and spent much of his free time listening to the records of Bessie Smith, whose angry bellow we all fervently admired. It was not only that she was Empress of the Blues. She was also black, and consequently oppressed, which made her the perfect icon for our group.

We longed for revolution, although what form it should take we did not

know. The London Jazz Club had an anarchist bookstall where the best-selling pamphlet was Henry Miller's *Murder the Murderer*. I still owned the Olympia Press edition of *Tropic of Cancer*, the first dirty book I had encountered which could pass as literature. And we suffered Miller's polemics in the hope that somehow sex had been smuggled into his sermon.

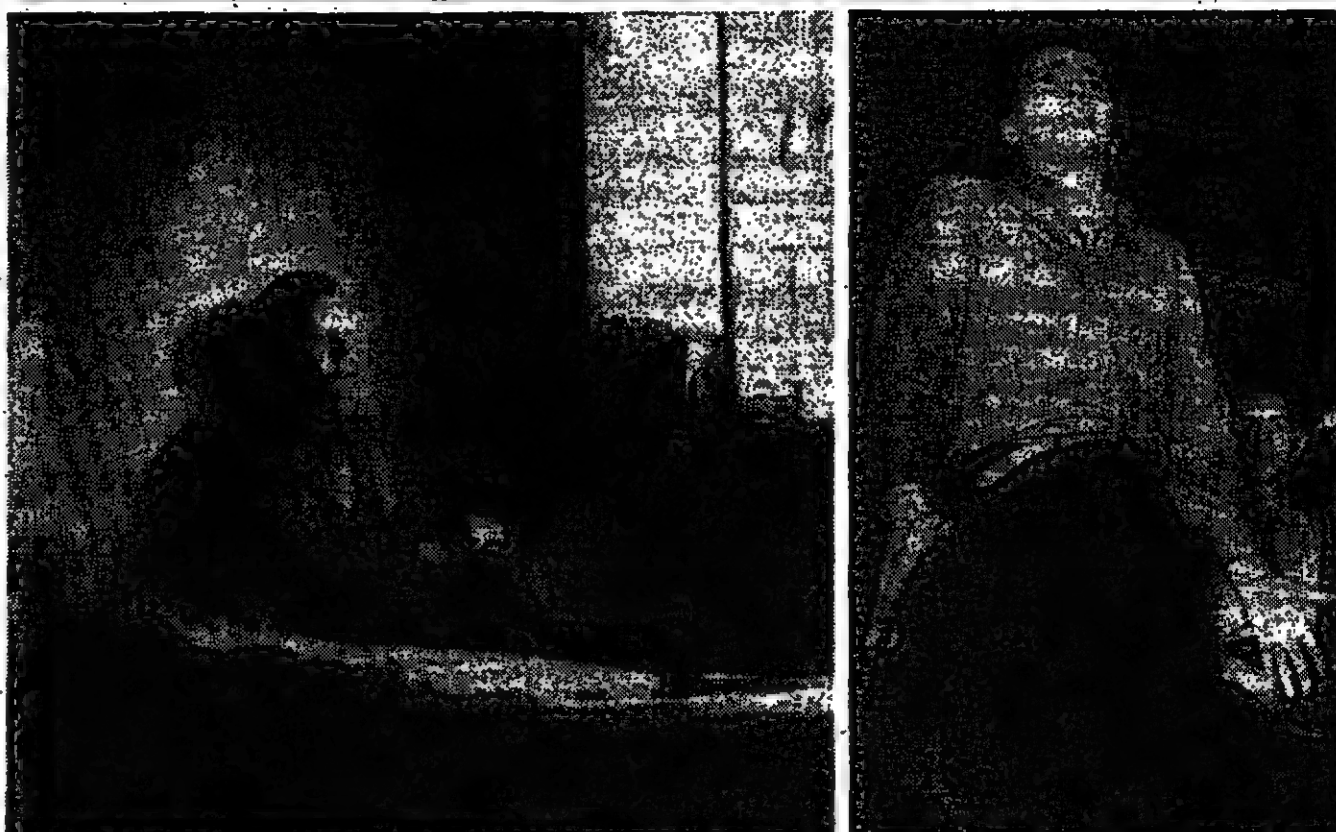
We were disappointed. There was better value, said George, in *The Lay of Maldoror*, a prose poem by the Comte de Lautréamont. But although we listened respectfully while he recited his favourite passages, it was hard to share his enthusiasm.

It was easier to respond to the pictures he praised. They were not only great art, he told us, but good investments. Few of us had the money to act on his advice. But he persuaded Mick Mulligan, richer than most of us in his capacity as the director of a wine and spirits firm, to buy a Max Ernst portfolio.

It was not entirely what Mick had expected. To him "art" was a word with sexual connotations. It meant horny painters, willing models and a generally licentious view of the world. Judged by these standards, Max Ernst did not come up to scratch. "Thanks very much, cock", he said as George showed him the plates which made up *Histoire Naturelle*, "but there's not much tit, is there?"

George's own collection was more comprehensive. When his grandmother died, leaving him several thousand pounds, he spent the lot on pictures. He too acquired a Max Ernst folio, but in his Chelsea digs pride of place was given to two paintings by René Magritte. They hung on the wall facing his bed and, lying among the jumble of bodies that morning in the pale light I felt, not for the first time, that I was inside an envelope, air-mailed from some exotic land and the pictures surrounding me were the stamps.

Because I lived with Bob I travelled with him in Mulligan's car. It meant free transport, but it was an uneasy arrangement. Strictly speaking only girls and musicians were entitled to seats in the car and I constantly felt obliged to do something which would justify my taking up the space. Heading for Perivale one evening Mick wondered aloud whether the band



Top: The Mick Mulligan Band at Chas Club, south London, in the early 1950s. Left to right, Owen Maddox, tuba; Wally Pawkes, clarinet; Mick Mulligan, trumpet; John Lavender, banjo; Harry Brown, trombone - plus an unknown drummer. Above left: Oakes, a 1950s flashback and right, the young George Melly

should take on a singer and I rose to the bait.

"How about me?" I said. Bob looked appalled and Mulligan glanced over his shoulder. "Didn't know you could sing, cock."

"I've done a bit", I said. For slightly less than six months I had been a solo treble in the school choir and subsequently I had sung in one or two army camp shows.

"You can try a couple of songs tonight", said Mick. My nerve held out until the band was halfway through its first set.

Mick beckoned me on to the bandstand. "All right, cock?" he asked. "All right."

We were on a higher level than I had imagined. The upturned faces on the

dance floor were like mirrors - reflecting not images but light. Without meaning to I began to count them until I heard Mick stamp his foot three times and the band led into the sweet, sauntering blues whose words, I suddenly realized, had gone from my mind.

They returned just as unexpectedly and leaning back with my eyes closed - an affectation which exuded me from looking at my audience - I sang about

lost love in another time and place. Opening my eyes for the final chorus I saw that a small circle of girls had gathered at my feet. They swayed in time to the music, dancing on the spot and jiggling gently beneath their loose sweaters.

Were they fans? I wondered. Would they want to touch me? Would I be able to take my pick of the bunch as Mulligan did? The song ended. They clapped perfunctorily and later on when I sang "Bill Bailey" Mick tore straight into the next number without allowing time for any applause.

My feelings were ruffled if not exactly hurt, but I said nothing until we were driving home, when I asked Mick how he thought I had done. "Not bad, cock", he said. "But it's not really your sort of thing."

"Why not?"

"Well, it's not the Hammersmith Palais, is it?"

"I don't know what you mean."

Mick spotted the blue light of a police car ahead and reduced his speed. "Style", he said. "The voice is all right. But it's not authentic."

I understood what he meant when George Melly turned up for a band rehearsal the following week. In the suburban litter of Mulligan's sitting room he recreated the New Orleans of 40 years before. Strutting on the Axminster, cigarette fuming between his fingers, he became the pimp, the gambler, the sporting-house man. I studied his gentian-smudged face and the tight arse in his trousers and wondered how a son of Liverpool, educated at Stowe, could sound so black.

"It's simply how you feel", he said.

"Really?" I asked. I learnt later that George listened to Bessie Smith records as intently as I listened to Sinatra, mimicking each breath, each angry growl. But he reproduced more than the sound. Each song became a dramatic recitation, a mime, a piece of theatre which he refined or embellished as he went along.

One night the Magnolias were playing at a club in Cranley, the stronghold of a group of traditionalists who believed that only music made before electrical recordings was the genuine article.

When George came on to sing the Cranley crowd began a slow handclap. The Mulligan supporters sauntered across the floor trying to look menacing, and I wondered if I was going to be called on to demonstrate my loyalty. I hoped not. Jazz enthusiasts were, by nature, both liberal and lenient and I had only occasionally seen blood flow. But the Cranley barracking went on and on and although George seemed unworried I could see that Mick's patience was wearing thin.

The leader of the Cranley pack advanced to the stage and clapped his hands under the bell of Mick's trumpet.

I half rose from my seat, but Jenny pulled me back. George stepped in front of the microphone and, stooping forward like a child presenting a bouquet, planted a kiss on the Cranley leader's forehead.

Abridged from At the Jazz Band Ball: A Memory of the 1950s by Philip Oakes, published on November 17 by Andre Deutsch, price £8.95. The earlier volumes of the Oakes trilogy were From Middle England and Dwellers All in Time and Space, are republished by Penguin in a single volume on the same date, price £3.95.

moreover... Miles Kington

The blues is feeling off colour

New Orleans

New Orleans may be the birthplace of jazz, but there are other, younger kinds of music to which it has given birth. There is a kind of rhythm 'n' blues which came out of this city in the 1950s and 1960s, lighter and more piano dominated than

northern varieties, that commands as devoted adherents as New Orleans jazz ever did. The most famous practitioner is Fats Domino, but there are others, less worldwide, local stars such as the late Professor Longhair and a current hero, pianist James Booker, who managed to be spectacularly ill during a recent concert without losing any sound. When you tell the cognoscenti that you are off to New Orleans, it isn't the jazz they tell you to keep an eye on, it's the rhythm 'n' blues scene.

All, however, is not well. Fats Domino is virtually an exile from his own city. He touches base about once a year for a reunion concert with the faithful and spends the rest of the time more profitably on the road. And audiences at club performances by lesser men are not what they should or ever used to be; club owners now complain that there are very few groups who can fill a place even at weekends and that they have to hire two or even three groups on one evening to guarantee a sellout.

Two of the city's most popular nightspots closed recently with financial problems; they put the blame in varying proportions on cable TV, lack of exposure on unadventurous local radio, new rock discos, the tendency of bands to price themselves out of the market and even on crime in the streets.

One of the top remaining spots is a bar called Tipitina's, a sweaty echoing kind of place with minimal decor, a kind of rock and roll version of the 100 Club in Oxford Street, and when I went there to see the Radiators, a very good local rock and roll band, the audience certainly didn't seem big enough to cover any kind of outlay and the band played correspondingly loud to fill the empty spaces. Only one or two bands, like the locally famous Neville Brothers, can be relied upon to get the place really full and steaming.

The biggest crowd I saw for any musical event here was a full turnout in the huge Saenger Theatre for a blues evening featuring Bobby Bland, B. B. King and Millie Jackson. Among the several thousand people I saw only about a dozen white faces; this was the black community turning out to greet its heroes, yet it seemed to be a case of

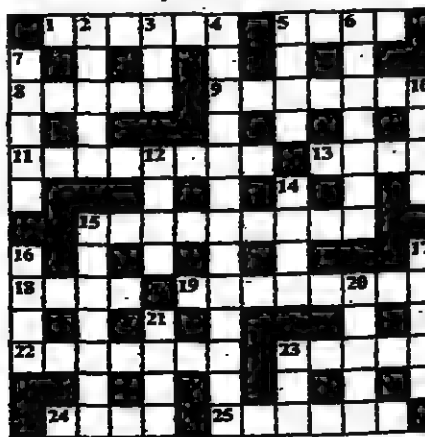
celebrating past achievements more than anything new. B. B. King played and sang well enough, but both he and Bland, whose name is extremely apt, looked like two middle-aged spreading gentlemen going through their past bits. There was much more clapping at the start of numbers than at the end. Millie Jackson, much younger, seemed intent mainly on proving that a woman can talk as dirty as a man, which seemed to go down well with most present except my neighbour, who shouted unavailingly: "Wash your mouth out, girl!"

The only local radio station which can be relied upon to present a full range of adventurous music is WWOZ, which the other night claimed to have heard an excellent evening of Ethiopian reggae at Tipitina's. A pity there were so few people there, it said. And it may be that there are just too many kinds of music in this still very musical town to win all the audiences needed for survival. There is every kind of jazz, blues, rock and roll, country music and reggae, which is known better in New Orleans than most parts of the USA.

One kind of music that seems on the increase is Cajun. This simple but attractive music, sung in French patois and dominated by violins and accordions, is creeping into the cities from the bayous, and sounds far better in the flesh than its repetitive image on record might suggest. Clifton Henier, a black star of the music, filled Tipitina's last Saturday. On Thursday I heard Boure, a group named after a favourite Cajun card game, and the Maple Leaf, where they created a wonderful evening of hooping and dancing.

The impressive thing was that the band, apart from one grizzled fiddler, was very young, and that the equally young crowd were dancing correct steps - a kind of five mixed with country two-step. Musically it can hardly be called a step forward, but it is hard not to be carried away by the stomping country rhythm and the lifting waltzes, not to mention the refreshing lack of decibels. The other day I even heard a Cajun version of "When the Saints Come Marching In". It was the first time in 20 years I had found myself enjoying this hammy old tune.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 184)



ACROSS
1 Greek headband (6)
5 Mouth frame (4)
8 Scrapper (5)
9 Light saddle horse (5,3,3)
11 Base (6)
13 Largest feline (4)
15 Trainee's rights (6)
16 Considerate (4)
18 Sudden growth spurt (3)
22 Prairie (7)
23 Anticipations (5)
24 Flood embankment (4)
25 Revolve (6)

DOWN
2 Joint with foot (5)
3 Railman's union (1,1,1)
4 Perfect condition (5,3,3)
5 Sudden jar (4)
6 Anxious person (7)
7 Fill in excess (5)
8 Sharp tug (4)
12 Large town (4)
14 18th Cent style (4)
15 Post mortem (7)
16 Nihilistic art (4)
17 Grind teeth (5)
20 Should (5)
21 Vanish slowly (4)
23 Very want (3)

SOLUTION TO No 183
ACROSS: 1 Fin de siècle 9 Arsenal 19 Eatin' 11 End 13 Reed 16 Zinc 17 Evolve 18 Dyak 21 March 22 Auld 23 Elbe 25 Mid 26 Noble 29 Rockin' 30 Reckless
DOWN: 2 Isaac 3 Dent 4 Sole 5 Eyed 6 Lustily 7 Patron saint 8 Knickknacks 12 Novice 14 Def 15 Dotage 19 Priebse 20 Dee 24 Lunge 25 Mete 26 Drug 27 Dole

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In search of a 'techno-hero'

By Kenneth Owen

"Machines that think are good business," says Edward Feigenbaum, Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University in California's Silicon Valley. "And they're going to be big business in the late 20th Century and the early 21st Century."

As head of Stanford's Heuristic Programming Project, Ed Feigenbaum has built up what is arguably the world's Number One team in the branch of artificial intelligence (AI) known as expert systems - computer programs containing knowledge and reasoning abilities which enable computers to explore selected problems in a human-like way.

The Japanese have realised the significance of such systems in their ambitious ten-year programme to develop so-called "fifth-generation" computer systems. But the United States as a nation has not, he argues, and the British Government's Alvey programme of advanced information technology (a direct response to the Japanese plan) faces major problems.

Professor Feigenbaum praises the innovative contribution that British scientists have made to artificial intelligence. But, he says, the British have an alarming propensity to "shoot themselves in the foot". The most crippling example of this was the damning report on AI made to the Science Research Council by Sir James Lighthill in 1973.

Now Ed Feigenbaum finds, to his amazement, that the spirit of Lighthill is still alive in Britain. Artificial intelligence is still not accepted as a respectable subject by influential members of the academic and industrial establishment.

The second problem facing Britain in attempting to implement the Alvey proposals for research in artificial intelligence (or "intelligent knowledge-based systems", the Alvey euphemism) is that of "critical mass". There is a severe shortage of talent, and that talent is spread among many small groups.

Britain would be wise to concentrate its AI resources in a single centre, Feigenbaum argues. This concentrated effort should be led by a young and charismatic "technology hero".

Thus the UK programme, as seen from Stanford, needs a fresh approach, a concentration of resources, an heroic leader - and preferably a pair of bulletproof shoes to prevent the foot again. Pressure to abandon longer-term research in favour of solving short-term

product problems is a danger that is already evident.

Feigenbaum's heuristic programming team at Stanford have two key achievements to their credit. First, they demonstrated convincingly that artificial intelligence was useful through an impressive series of practical knowledge-based systems that worked, the team won credibility for the subject.

Second, they achieved a radical change of direction in AI research away from attempts to devise completely general systems in favour of highly specialised, knowledge-intensive ones. Feigenbaum's people were intellectual pariahs when they signalled that direction in the mid-1960s; a decade later, their ideas had become accepted wisdom.

Ed Feigenbaum's science has the essence of engineering. "We really wanted to make smart



Ed Feigenbaum - advice to the British

machines", he enthuses. "We eschewed fancy problem-solving methods."

"We thought of problem areas as hard walls against which to throw our ideas. So we chose very hard problems, because you have to see how the ideas break; you can't throw ideas against a pillow. We sought complexity, not simplicity, so that the faults in our ideas could be identified."

His message is clear. The effort to build intelligent, knowledge-based systems is the most difficult endeavour ever undertaken by computer science and engineering. The Japanese plan reflects a vision that is achievable, clearly articulated, and based on strong economic motivation.

That is in sharp contrast to the British plan, which is sketchy and will unfold gradually; and to the American plan, which is non-existent. The United States has no clearly articulated national vision, no "State of the Union" address for information technology.

Rex Malik on the Fifth Generation - Page 18

Push-button introduction to the electronic university

The first silicon-chip college

THE WEEK

Clive Cookson

American college level (though not the standard of Britain's more specialised university courses).

This aspect of TeleLearning is no different from the educational software sold by scores of publishers on both sides of the Atlantic.

The communications technology, however, is new to the world of education. TeleLearning claims to have simplified the procedure so much that students need only push one button on their keyboard to be connected via the telephone system to a personal computer of their (human) instructor, anywhere in the country.

The Electronic University package, consisting of communications software and hardware (the modem), costs between \$130 and \$230, depending on the student's home computer. It stores all the protocols (user code, terminal identification and so on) that are normally required to log into a long-distance network. Courses run from \$30 to \$100 each, depending on length and the instructor's credentials.

Student and instructor can either communicate directly at specified times or use TeleLearning's "electronic mailbox" facility to leave work or

messages at the other's computer.

Ron Gordon, former chief executive of Atari, the computer games company, has been developing the Electronic University for the past two years. He has great ambitions for international expansion. "Within three years the TeleLearning Network will be used to educate more people than any other private educational institution in the world."

TeleLearning courses do not yet carry formal "academic credit" in the United States, but the company is negotiating such recognition with a number of

established colleges and universities.

As well as offering its own programmes through department stores and computer shops, TeleLearning will license the system to colleges, corporations and others wishing to teach their own courses with their own instructors to their own students or employees.

The final words of praise for TeleLearning came from James Coyne, who heads the appropriately named Office of Private Sector Initiatives in the White House. "Never before has technology offered such promise to broaden the ability of society to provide effective, low cost, industrialised instruction to those who want to explore the horizons of knowledge," he said.

Roger Woolnough looks at the impact of video games on teaching

The friendly side of the Cookie Monster

It sounds like a sketch from Monty Python. A psychologist stands up and delivers a paper on "Donkey Kong, Pac Man and the Meaning of Life". Solemn rows of scientists, doctors and educationalists listen with interest, and then consider such topics as the effects of video games on the parent-child relationship, and the educational potential of "Alligator Mix" and "Juggles Rainbow".

After three days, fortified with a parting wine-and-cheese party, they all return to places like Berkeley, Palo Alto, Oakland, and Portola Valley.

It could only happen in America, but happen it did: at Harvard, no less earlier this year. The conference was called "Video games and human development", and the contribution of Robert Kegan, who gave the keynote address on "State of the Union" address for information technology.

But behind what some may consider academic absurdities, there lies a serious concern with the effect of the games on society, family life, crime, education, and much else. Seldom can a subject which looks so frivolous on the surface have been subjected to such an onslaught of sheer brainpower as happened at Harvard.

Well to the fore was Dr Robert Oltion, a psychologist who is now manager of behavioural research at Atari Inc in California.

In London a few weeks after

the Harvard conference, Oltion enthused about the potential of the medium.

Atari, he said, has jointly developed with Sesame Street a series of games for children in the years before school. "It teaches reading skills, numbers, simple concepts like left and right, up and down," Oltion explained. "They are non-violent, worthwhile, and fun - the Sesame Street philosophy."

After that it comes as a bit of a setback to learn that one game is called "Cookie Monster Munch", and that it involves the infant trying to get cookies into the cookie-jar before they are munching by the Cookie Monster.

Atari admits that the game would have to be extensively revised before it could be marketed here, but Oltion is convinced that the principles involved are right.

The teaching programme is held in a single cartridge with a rising scale of difficulty (in one case, a maze has to be followed, but the outline of the maze can be made to disappear from the screen). This step-by-step approach means the games would be used by children over a period of two or three years. They are all designed to be played with a parent or older child.

Several new educational games were discussed at the Harvard conference. "Rocky's Boots" allows children to build electronic circuits on the TV screen. "Soundtrack Trolley" teaches the elements of music, and allows children to vary the

sound to create different harmonies.

Everyone at the conference seemed agreed that educational video games have a big future. "There's a very rich tutorial interaction between machine and learner," said Professor David Perkins of Harvard Graduate School of Education. "It all takes care of itself, because the kids want to learn... This is educational heaven."

Where some people may part from the conclusions of the Harvard conference is in the areas of crime and family life. Have these eminent researchers really got it right?

Dr David Brooks, a specialist in juvenile crime, was so concerned about whether a games arcade was a safe place for a child that he carried out two years of research, interview-

ing and watching 900 children and talking to 973 youths.

He concluded that typical arcade games are a fairly stable, and even above-average, group of teenagers. "They're a very rich tutorial interaction between machine and learner," said Professor David Perkins of Harvard Graduate School of Education.

"Are video games addictive?" Brooks asked. "By and large... 51 per cent play the games less than half the time they are in the arcade." (What are they doing for the rest of the time?)

Professor Edna Mitchell, of Mills College, has studied the effect of the video game on the family circle. It turns out that it is responsible for reviving that old American imperative, "When I began the study," Professor Mitchell said, "I thought these children would be playing video games five or six hours a day, and the parents wouldn't be able to pry them away and there'd be a tremendous amount of family conflict."

Instead, the families reported a new kind of interaction: some of which had not occurred for years and years, since they'd stopped playing. Monopoly together.

If some difficulty in equating video games with happy families, the benefits of the games in another context seem unquestionable. Dr William Lynch, director of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit in a California hospital, described how the unit has been using video games, and eventually computers, to help patients recover their skills.

Robert Oltion of Atari believes that one day people may use a computer to extend their mental abilities, just as they now use power tools to extend their physical abilities. That is, if the Cookie Monster doesn't get them first.

People/Bill Butt of Digital Microsystems Cyclist on the right road

When he was in his early twenties, Bill Butt applied for a job as an administrative assistant. He had never heard of the company, but it happened to be IBM. It was a chance beginning to a career in computing which has involved Butt with several other American computer companies, and has led to his present involvement with local area networks.

"I was gathered into the fold of IBM," Butt recalls of his early experience, "and spent seven years with the company. At first I was selling punched cards and magnetic tapes. Then I was trained to sell a full data processing system."

In fact he left soon after his training was complete, and began a kind of Cooke's Tour of the industry, with stop-overs at Telex Computer Products, Varian Data Machines, Wang, and Harris Systems.

It was while he was with Wang, where he became national sales manager for word-processing and computing, that Bill Butt first realised the possibilities of local area networks (LANs). When he was approached to become managing director of Digital Microsystems, which specialises in LANs, he jumped at the chance.

"I haven't enjoyed myself so much for a very long time," he says. "After all those American



companies it's a delight to work for a British firm. One feels one is contributing."

British it may be but the Americans are still strong. Digital Microsystems was set up in September last year by Ertel Group, which owns 75% of it. The remainder is owned by Digital Microsystems Inc, based in Oakland, California, but Ertel owns 60% of that too. A large part of Butt's brief is to mastermind transferring the technology from California to Europe, a process which is proceeding at a rapid rate.

The American company was formed by Professor John Torode and his wife in 1975, and a few years later started to exploit Torode's design for a LAN called ErtelNet, which links together several microcomputers. Ertel started distributing the company's products in Britain, and then bought the controlling interest.

"We've been going from strength to strength," Butt enthuses. There are more than 500 ErtelNet LANs installed in this country, with British Telecom a major user.

Earlier this year Digital Microsystems moved to new premises in Wokingham, and has started its own design and manufacture for the UK market.

"We hope to encourage some joint developments," Butt comments, although clearly John Torode's contribution remains significant, and basic work is being carried out in the States.

For relaxation, Bill Butt indulges in the low-tech pastime of cycling, which he recently took up to keep fit. "I had not done it since I was about 18," he says. "I had to learn how to turn left and right again."

But there should be no such problems with Digital Microsystems, where the road seems to stretch straight ahead. RW

A chance to put talent on show

The exhibition and conference season is well and truly upon the UK computer industry, providing the annual opportunity to look for a job.

The primary reason for the exhibitions, the biggest of which is Compec in November, is to show and view new equipment. Below the surface, however, exhibitions and conferences provide a unique opportunity for staff, especially marketing staff, to find a new employer.

For most of the year, marketing staff have their noses to the grindstone, fighting their way through a competitive market share, quotas and commission.

Occasionally they are left off the hook and sent to stand around on exhibition stands looking neat and tidy, ready with a winning smile for the interested visitor. While this job is generally boring and tedious with great reluctance by the marketing staff, for some of them it proves to be the ideal opportunity to view the products and prospects of the opposition.

Under the cover of checking out the competitor's stands they can make contact with their prospective employer, have a quick interview and arrange for further more secretive meetings. This use of exhibitions and conferences has reached such a fine art in the UK that exhibition organisers put up job boards for prospective employers to advertise on.

JOB SCENE

Richard Sharpe

Most marketing staff publicly avert their eyes when passing these boards, just in case their manager is around. But in a quiet moment most of them will at least give the adverts and business cards pinned up a glance to see if they can take the plunge and move on.

Sometimes this whole operation is just a bluff, a calculated strategy to get an offer with which to extract a better position or more money from the existing employer. Sometimes it is a genuine move that evokes a response from one's employer.

In one recent case a marketing manager was nearly lured away from a major company in the UK by another company that was so sure they had secured his services that they put out a press release. He decided to stay on and there was confusion all round.

Marketing managers attuned to the use of exhibitions by their employees, who probably owe their own jobs to just such tactics, guard against the use of stand service by a variety of stratagems.

One tactic is to select closely those that will be on the stand and keep the rest out on the road. Another is to get the staff on the stand and make them use part of their time following calls and doing other administration just to keep them busy.

A third is to ensure that their biggest customer is invited to the exhibition so that they have to play host and realise just how much commission is at stake if their move does not prove successful.

voice input/output workstations
cases
telephone terminals
ASCII VDUs
colour VDUs
graphics VDUs
viewdata terminals
voice input/output workstations
cases
integrated circuits
keyboards
memory
passive devices
peripheral controllers
printer mechanisms
recording heads
access, security & safety
card punches
environmental control
furniture
magnetic media
microfiche
microfilm
physical storage
power supplies
stationery
test equipment
point-of-sale
controllers
gateways
cryptoplans
local networks
message switches
modems
acoustic couplers
multiplexers
network management
PBXs
protocol, code & speed converters
teletex
test equipment
viewdata
teletext
voice and wideband
wide-area networks
calculators
local processing terminals
mainframe computers
microcomputers
multi-user microcomputers
16-bit microcomputers
32-bit microcomputers
word processors
daisy wheel printers
line printers
impact matrix printers
ink jet printers
telex transmits
telephone terminals
ASCII VDUs
colour VDUs
graphics VDUs
viewdata terminals
voice input/output workstations
cases
integrated circuits
keyboards
memory
passive devices
peripheral controllers
printer mechanisms
recording heads
screens
bar code readers & printers
digitizers
disc drives
floppy disc drives
Winchesters
graphics/handwriting tablets
optical character recognition
paper tape readers/punches
plotters
point-of-sale

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Olympia, London

November 15-18 1983

10 years to go to the new office

If tomorrow's office is slow to arrive, don't blame the machines, blame the people, writes Roger Woolnough. That was the message from Michael Aldrich, chief executive of Rediffusion Computers, when he addressed the Midland Association of Building Societies.

All the technology for integrating data, text, graphics, voice, image, information handling, storing and processing is already in place, he said. The main constraint to introducing the integrated office is the lack of people among users with the experience to design, install and implement it.

He put the timescale for integrated office systems at 10 years. Even then old habits would die hard, and results would still be printed on paper. "There is no good news for the trees with office automation," Aldrich said.

The computer industry's galloping technology has a limit after all. It is now 10 years since Peter Elmer introduced the first 32-bit microcomputers, but UK general manager Brian Hanley sees little need for 64-bit or 128-bit capabilities. "The 32-bit machine may be the ultimate," he says, observing that one can get gigabytes of memory out of 32-bits.

But things have changed.

COMPUTER BRIEFING

Today's multiprocessor equivalent of Perkin-Elmer's high-end S/32 machine of 1974 can deliver 42 times the performance for the same cost. And stand by for "transparent multiprocessing" - slide-in units that will increase computer power and memory without major capital investments.

Well-heeled can now indulge in "intelligent" telephones. STC Telecommunications has launched the Executrol, a telephone set with a screen and keyboard, powered by a microcomputer. Among other things, it has a memory bank that can keep the executive's diary and address book up to date, and it can sound an alarm when it is time for a meeting or - more important - lunch.

Executrol also gives access to Prestel and other viewdata services, and it can send or receive electronic mail and telexes via Telecom Gold. A single Executrol will cost about £2,000, or around £200 for an executive/secretarial combination, but STC thinks the market for intelligent display telephones could reach 47,000 units by 1986.

Early models of a new family of hard disc drives are expected in the UK early next year. Developed in the USA by Microcomputer Memories, they offer microcomputer

capacities of 6.35 and 12.7 Megabytes and in the new 3.5-inch package their compact size is shown in relation to a human hand (right).

UK Events

Lancaster & Morecambe Computer Club, Open Day, Lower Town Hall, Lancaster, October 29
Computerworld UK, Naisa Library, Avon, October 31-November 18
Software Expo, Wembley Conference Centre, London, November 9-13
Home Computer Exhibition, Dublin, November 9-13
COMETECH - Personal - Computers & Leisure Technology Exhibition, Bristol Exhibition Centre, November 11-13
Malvern Micro Fair, Malvern Winter Gardens, Worcestershire, November 12
Manchester Apple Village, Belle Vue, Manchester, November 13-16
COMPEX, London Olympia, November 15-18

Computer Aided Design for the Building Professional, RIBA, Portland Place, London W1, November 16

Overseas Events

Computer Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, October 25-29
Gulf Computer Exhibition, Dubai, November 21-24
Computer Indonesia, Jakarta, November 22-25
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THE TIMES

Classroom computer competition

There seemed to be a lot of confusion among the entries in the fourth of our 12 weekly Classroom Computer competitions for young people up to 18 years old.

Most entries confused the words microprocessor and microcomputer. The world's most common type of microcomputer is based around an 8-bit processor. The world's most common microprocessor is 4-bit. This accounts for more than 50 per cent of all processors used. It is found in washing machines, television, cars etc., and far outnumbers the 8-bit processor used mainly for data/information processing. The 16-bit processor accounts for only a small percentage of use.

As far as a new name for a 16-bit word was concerned, chomp and gobble were the most common - chomp was liked by the judges, gobble not so much.

Munch and mouthful were also popular. It was in the second choice of word that the judges looked for originality.

Today we offer the seventh competition. There are two age groups - up to 15 and 15 to 18 inclusive. Entries will be individual efforts but because we are keen that schools should become involved, the main prize - two Atari 600XL computers a week, one for each group - will be presented to the school of the winner's choice. In addition, 10 copies of The Times Atlas of World History, five in each age group, will be awarded each week to individual entrants, including the overall winners of the school computers.

The competition is simple to enter. Cut out the entry form today and, every Tuesday for the next 11 weeks and collect each week the entry tokens from the back page of The Times (you will find it at the foot of The Times Information Service) on the five following publication days - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday - and stick them on the form. Those who entered last week should be sure that entries are posted to arrive by first post Friday.

Today and in every week of the competition there will be five questions on computers to answer with a different theme each week. These will not require the use of a computer but may require a certain amount of research. All the answers are to be found in works of reference readily available to young people. There is a tie-breaking question to answer which will test the ingenuity and imagination of contestants and enable the panel of judges to decide the winners. Every week is a new contest so missing one week will not spoil your chances.

Enjoy yourselves and good luck!

The Prizes



• The ATARI 600XL computer has a 16k RAM memory, expandable to 64k with a memory module. 24k ROM and software compatibility with other ATARI home computers.

• The Times Atlas of World History has 360 pages containing 600 new maps and 300,000 words of narrative presenting history in the context of the places where it happened.

Judging

1. The prizes will be divided and awarded equally between the two age groups - up to 15 years and 15-18 years as at date of entry.
2. Those entries with all factual questions answered correctly will be judged first. The entry which in the opinion of the judges gives the most apt and imaginative answer to the tie-breaker question will win a Computer for the School or College nominated, and a personal prize of an Atlas.
3. Other entries with all-correct answers and judged to have submitted the next 8 best answers to the tie-breaker will win a personal prize of an Atlas.
4. Those entries with less than all-correct answers will be judged in order, in the event that not enough all-correct entries qualify.
5. If identical entries are judged to have won, the entrants may be asked to submit to a further similar competition.

Rules

1. All entries must be made via the official entry form as printed in The Times. No photocopies will be accepted. Several entries from the same school may be posted together.
2. Each individual entry must be accompanied by the required

number of computer symbols as printed in The Times relevant to that week's competition.

3. All entries must be made clearly in ink. Incomplete, illegible, spilt or late entries will be rejected as will those without a nomination.

4. You must be under 19 years of age and be a full-time student of the school or college nominated at the time of entry.

5. Names of all winners will be published in The Times not later than 2 weeks after closing date. All entries become the sole property and copyright of The Times. Prizes will be despatched to the School.

6. No individual may win more than once in any one competition.

7. Proof of posting is not acceptable as proof of entry.

8. The decision of the panel of judges appointed by the Editor is final on all matters connected with the competition. No correspondence at any stage of the competition will be entered into.

9. Employees and their families of Times Newspapers Ltd, its associated companies or anyone connected with the operation of this competition are not eligible.

10. All entrants will be deemed to have agreed to abide by the rules of which all instructions form part.

Results of the fourth competition

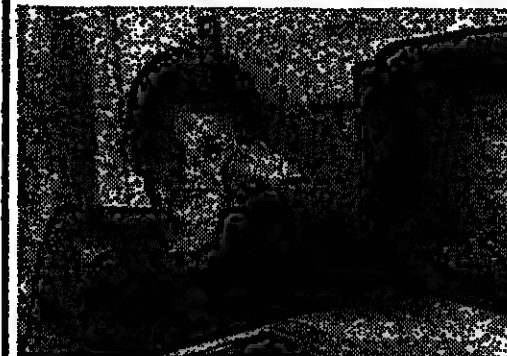
Stuart and Anthony are this week's winners

Two boys, age 10 and 16, are the winners of The Times Classroom Computer fourth competition. They are Stuart McDonald of St. Bernadette's School, Harrow, Middlesex, and Anthony Cole, of Downend School, Downend, Bristol. The winning decision was made by a tie-breaking question.

The answers to the fourth competition were 1) A; 2) B; 3) B; 4) A; 5) A.

The winners will both receive an Atari 600XL computer for their schools, as well as a personal gift of the Times Atlas of

World History. The eight runners up are: Martin Rooney, St. Bride's High School, East Kilbride; Sian Morse, Rosebery School, Epsom, Surrey; Samantha King, Herts & Essex High School, Bishops Stortford, Herts; Anil Patel, Cobden Junior School, Loughborough, Leics; Simon Fowler, St. Dominic's School, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex; Stephen Witter, Kings School, Peterborough; Sarah Wright, School of St. Helen & St. Katharine, Abingdon, Oxon; Simon Spooner, Gillingham Comprehensive School, Gillingham, Dorset. Each receives a Times Atlas.



Stuart McDonald (10) left, comes from a computing household. His mother is a lecturer in computing and his father is a consultant, so it was inevitable that he took an interest in the subject.

He uses a BBC machine at home and apart from playing games, writes short programs for it. This school at present has no computer facilities, but is hoping to be allocated a machine shortly.

Apart from the micro, Stuart's other hobbies are football, chess and swimming for the local team. Anthony Cole (16) right, has just won a BBC machine in a competition linked with the film 'Iron'.

At home, with his BBC micro, he plays games and writes utilities, using machine code. He has an O Level in computing studies, and this

year hopes for an A in the subject. Downend school is equipped with BBC, RML, and ZX81 micros, and is moving to a new computer room.

Computer Studies teacher Mrs S. Redfern is looking forward to the addition of the Atari. It will enable more of the younger children to use the facilities during the club sessions after school. Anthony is a keen photographer and cyclist.

COMPETITION No 7 Memories 2

Study the 5 questions below carefully, and select your answer from the choices given. In each case write *only* the appropriate code letter into the answer box. Remember to complete the tie-breaker and all other parts of this entry form in accordance with the rules - and to attach 5 entry symbols.

Closing date for entries - 1st post Friday, November 4.

1. The maximum amount of memory that can be accessed from an 8-bit microprocessor is:
A 8192 bytes
B 65536 bytes
C 131072 bytes
2. The standard IBM formatted single density 8 inch floppy disk has:
A 77 tracks
B 35 tracks
C 40 tracks
3. A what-Winnie is:
A 5 inch diameter hard disk
B A Dartmoor pony
C The other half of a famous cartoon mouse
4. A ROM is:
A a space invader from the planet Romulus
B a type of memory that you cannot change
C read/write memory
5. A CCD is:
A a plain clothes policeman
B a type of calculator/computer display
C a memory technology using electrostatic charge

Tie-breaker

In fewer than 20 words, describe a novel application for a magnetic bubble memory.

FULL NAME _____ AGE _____
SCHOOL/COLLEGE _____
SCHOOL/COLLEGE ADDRESS _____
SCHOOL TELEPHONE _____
HOME TELEPHONE _____

SEND TO:
Times Computer Competition No. 7, PO Box 99, Sudbury, Suffolk.

COMPUTER COMPETITION	DAY 2	DAY 3
WEEK SEVEN DAY 1	DAY 4	DAY 5
	DAY 6	

The new-hat centre

Yet another micro-based company has blossomed in the London borough of Islington. Shelton Instruments, manufacturers of the multi-user Sig/Net series of micros, has just taken over a disused wig and hat warehouse in the new technology borough, and opened a new production line there.

The company set up by a graduate of Imperial College, Dr Chris Shelton in 1974, originally concentrated on consultancy work, but, when Neil Harrison, who is now technical director, arrived in 1978, the company decided to put all of its efforts into the Sig/Net project.

The system, which offers facilities for multi users to grow with low cost linear expansion, costs, has sold more than 2000 units in the last eighteen months, and the company, with

orders for a further 1000, is its sights set on selling 4000 units this year.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Minister responsible for Information Technology, who opened the new premises, sees companies like Shelton beating foreign competitors at their own game, by not competing directly with Japanese and American imports.

To aid the company expansion, late last year it received an injection of capital from The BTG and Innotech Investments. With a new 16-bit dual processor micro, due to be unveiled, probably at COM-PEC, the company has expanded its workforce, and now employs what must be one of the highest-trained teams in the area, for all of the production team are at least "A" level or HNC holders, while the test team consists solely of graduates.

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In my last article I wrote that the Japanese, in devising the Fifth Generation, are proposing to change the relationship between hardware and software, moving the boundary between the two and changing much of what was previously thought to be software into hardware.

Eventually much of what was the operating software will be replaced by a set of VLSI modules integral to the system which will enable it to operate. There will still be some applications software, though how it is organised and what devices it is stored on it is yet difficult to see.

All this may seem complicated. It is. Indeed, the route that the Japanese are pursuing is not well understood, even within the computing industry. To seek that understanding, it is necessary to go back to first principles and start by asking how a machine can be made to operate in parallel, the way that the Japanese have chosen to try to break the performance capability bottleneck.

It is obvious that the system

Rex Malik concludes his series examining the ways in which the Japanese are re-thinking the role of the machine

has to break the task to be performed down into its component parts, operating on each part that can be separately treated independently. But that does not really answer the question. For what determines when each step is taken and the order in which it is done; how the dependencies are sorted out.

The answer is obvious, though not easy to execute. It is to impose a system of logic on the machine. This is what we do with traditional operating software, but with the computer systems we have it has not been a formal system, one independent of the machine.

Can such a system be imposed on a machine? Essentially the Japanese are committing immense resources to the proposition that it can.

Its base will be the predicate calculus, and its initial expression a language based on it called PROLOG. This was devised by a Frenchman, Alain

Colmerauer, of the University of Marseilles, and an American, Robert Kowalski of Imperial College, London. Operating software is generally organised to cut down the number of instructions required to perform tasks, to try to overcome hardware limitations and increase the throughput of the systems.

A language based on a formal logic of universal characteristics, however, is bound to be different. It will probably have to go back to fundamentals each time, a reverse process. This could mean that the power requirement to cope with even trivial questions could increase substantially.

But if we can reduce each step taken down to its fundamentals, and build the machine's responses out of processing those steps, what we have created is a logical engine which is in essence, independent of most of the specific tasks it performs.

We have not yet finished. If each logical step is clear of ambiguity, it becomes an elemental building block. There will need to be a lot of those. But making the machine work

aiding users in the specification of the problem they wish solved and the provision of answers in terms they will find intelligible.

These software systems are not options, they are integral parts of a fifth generation machine.

It is the working out and the development of all these parts and processes and their creation which is expected to take at least ten years. But at the end of it there should be a working architecture from which a prospect can be built.

It will be a different product, for it should do relatively easily what computers find difficult to do today.

It cannot be emphasised too strongly that 5G is a long term project of collaborative research between government and industry. It is expected to spin off software and hardware development as it progresses, which will then be taken up by the companies taking part.

This is the challenge that faces Europe and America. This is not just an attempt to keep existing technology and technological ideas to make them run faster, smoother, and easier.

It is an attempt to create a basic machine which can then be used in almost any sort of factual domain.

A promise from Mr Fuchi

When (not if) Japan finally pulls off The Fifth Generation, there will no doubt be a queue of the usual figures, many corporate persons among them, trying to claim an unreal share of the credit.

Blame or credit, the man who will have to carry either (itself a sharp revolution in Japanese organisational style) is Kazuhiro Fuchi, the head of ICO, The Institute for New Generation Computer Systems in Tokyo. Mr Fuchi was in London the other day, and what he had to say and report was either genuinely exciting or very depressing, according to your position and point of view.

Mr Fuchi, in private an enthusiast, in public somewhat diffident, was speaking quietly to the grandiloquently named "Fifth Generation World Conference 1983" run by SPL Insight. On the programme with him were the heads or key members of the often hastily-assembled national projects set up to compete with 5G: the



Mr Fuchi... the architect

EEC's, the French, the German, the USA collective, and the British.

Mr Fuchi said that their first experimental processor was now being built. True, it might be a big box, but it was the prototype of the key hardware which would become the workstation of those researchers involved in 5G research.

When would it be ready? Sometime in the spring or summer of next year. And just to indicate that no-one was being fooled, that they were not talking paper machines, he also announced a Japanese conference on 5G to be held in November next year, at which

people would have the chance of seeing it, operational or not. The Japanese speakers supporting Mr Fuchi, from ICOT and from Fujitsu, were quite happy to discuss progress, the routes being pursued, given design data, show how the software architecture was evolving and generally discuss the success they were having - or the lack of it. There was very little of the latter.

The highly focused, well integrated, and thoroughly cooperative endeavour of the Japanese was sharply differentiated from the approaches of everybody else.

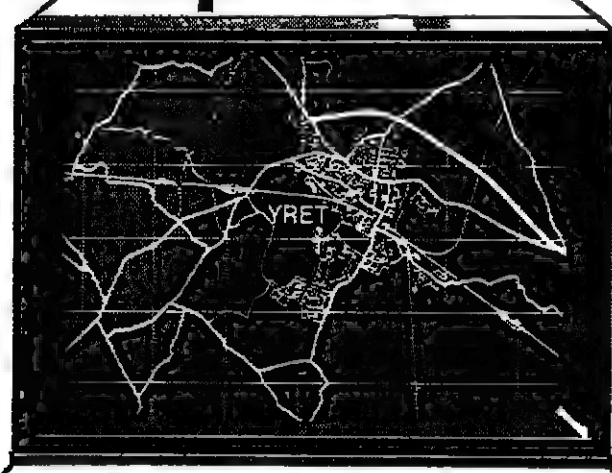
As Professor Edward Feigenbaum of Stanford University, a leading worker in artificial intelligence in the USA and the author of a popular book on the Fifth Generation, put it in a video contribution, the cooperation among Japanese researchers was generally very deep and good, and they were exhibiting a better than usual learning curve.

Which was not exactly the liking of everybody, and will no doubt be even less to the liking of occidental corporate managements and politicians when the conference reports start to roll in.

"The Fifth Generation", by Edward Feigenbaum and Pamela McCorduck, is to be published in the UK by Michael Joseph, price £9.95.

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Encouraged by the acknowledged achievement of the UKADGE team, Plessey Defence Systems is expanding its Titchfield operation through a programme of major new projects - two of the most significant being in CCIS (Command, Control and Information Systems) and Message Processing.

CCIS Projects

These include a substantial Plessey-funded investment in a new product incorporating expert system principles and high resolution graphics. The Map Graphics we have illustrated is part of this undertaking. Projects involve both tactical and strategic CCIS systems covering a wide spectrum of hardware and software applications.

Message Processing Developments

These include total systems engineering for large scale MOD projects for naval surface and sub-surface platforms in addition to large company funded programmes - all incorporating the latest hardware and software technology, involving multi micro-processor based designs moving towards the ADA programming language.

Specialist Opportunities

This activity has now created a number of vacancies in our Projects and Operations departments for the following specialities:

Systems Designers with a hardware or software background for Project Management and Systems Analysis at all levels up to Chief Systems Designer.

Software Specialists with real time experience to be responsible for either Systems or Application Software Implementation.

Electronic Engineers and Mechanical Engineers to be responsible for specialist development, configuration, integration and test.

Action: If you would like further details about the opportunities at Titchfield - the work, benefits, assistance with relocation etc - please ring or write for our information pack to: Graham Spittle, Plessey Defence Systems Limited, Titchfield, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 4QA. Tel: Titchfield (0329) 49031 ext. 2226. Please quote ref: ref: T/10.

COMPUTER PERSONNEL REQUIRED

IBM ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS C LONDON

A major international of company are recruiting staff from an IBM mainframe background. Successful candidates will join at Analyst/Programmer level and will have the potential to progress to Project Leader status in due course. At least 2 yrs programming experience is required using either Cobol or PL/1. A knowledge of database and on-line systems would be advantageous, however full training will be given where required.

TO: £13,000

REF: TM 6694

DEC PROFESSIONALS C LONDON

A wide variety of positions are currently available with a well respected consultancy. Candidates will have DEC VAX or PDP 11 exp with a knowledge of one of the following: Fortran/Basic/RSX 11M/VMS. Positions range from Programmer through Analyst/Programmer to Senior Consultant. A wide salary range is available depending on exp (possible car allowance available at the Senior end). Some overseas travel involved with the more Senior Positions.

£9 - £16K+

REF: TA 6514

BUSINESS ANALYST ANAL/PROGS - BERKS

A well known commercial concern are looking to recruit personnel in two distinct areas. The first is that of Business Analyst for which applicants should have gained 8-9 yrs DP experience from within a general commercial environment and the second is that of Analyst/Programmers for which 4-5 yrs Cobol exp on any hardware is needed. All work is within a development role with an HND/Degree background preferred.

C: £13,000

REF: TJ 6870

GRADUATE ANAL/PROGS LONDON

Graduates with a good degree gained in any discipline and upwards of 18 months commercial computing experience are required by this leading international consultancy. The successful applicants will be working as Consultants covering a wide range of applications, hardware and software. Candidates with an IBM background will be of particular interest. In return the company offer good salaries, excellent career prospects and travel.

£10K TO £14K

REF: TS 5749

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER CITY

BANKING - ANY M/C

A well established financial concern are looking to recruit an Analyst/Programmer who has gained experience from within a banking/financial environment, a knowledge of foreign exchange or portfolio management would be advantageous. Cobol is essential, however there is no especially preferred hardware or software experience necessary. The company offer an excellent benefits package as well as a competitive salary.

£13,000+

BANKING BENEFITS

REF: TJ 6717

TANDEN ANAL/PROGS, S LONDON BASE

A well respected consultancy are currently looking for personnel to fill two full Analyst/Programmer roles i.e. systems specification through all stages to implementation. Work will be in the financial/banking area and the position may therefore well be of interest to candidates who are looking to move into that area. The positions will be based in South London with travel involved both within the UK and abroad (virtually anywhere). A company car is provided for personal and business use.

£16K - £17K+ CAR

REF: TM 6268

ICI ANAL/PROG, HERTS

Move to Support

A manufacturer is now looking to recruit a Programmer with approx 4 yrs exp. Cobol is required on ICI kit plus a knowledge of either Plan/Assembler or Fortran/Algol. Duties will involve setting up and supporting on-line systems along with possible software conversion to new hardware. The company offers good promotional prospects with a competitive salary and large company benefits.

TO: £12,000

REF: TA 6806

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER, LONDON

(IN-HOUSE CONSULTANCY)

A new department being established by this Central London IBM user requires 2 Analyst/Programmers. One position requires a knowledge of micros and mainframes, the other requires experience of APL. Duties will include analysis of user requests, decision on feasibility and as to whether systems will be micro or mainframe based, programming or systems support of APL including associated areas and evaluation on new software. A degree would be advantageous as would exp of DBase II, analysis, and programming in APL and knowledge of related areas.

TO: £14,250

REF: TS 6858

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One of the major commitments within the Wessex Region is the implementation and development of a standardised real time Patient Administration System which will support the complex information needs of today's hospitals. Included are areas such as patient identification, outpatient clinic organisation, inpatient recording, waiting list management and statistical information gathering for onward transmission to the regional ICL 2960 mainframe.

Two districts have installed powerful minicomputers and have started implementation. A third district will commence in August 1984, with a further commitment to five additional districts.

In order to accelerate the existing ambitious implementation rate, the current team is being expanded.

The staff appointed will enjoy a considerable degree of user liaison and will be expected to travel throughout the Region. Applicants should have a good working knowledge of COBOL and the ability to generate programme specifications. Real time applications experience and knowledge of the NHS would be an advantage.

Please write or telephone for an application form and full details to the Personnel Office, Wessex Regional Health Authority, Highcroft, Winchester, Hants. Telephone (0962) 63511, Ext. 471. Closing date - 7th November 1983.

Come back, almost all can be retrieved in time

By Jacquetta Megarry

David Hewson wrote (*Computer Horizons*, October 4) of the cold dread certainty experienced by a computer user who has just wiped out the work of hours, days or even weeks at the touch of a button.

His advice is sound ("Don't just save it, print it too") but cannot be taken too literally: constantly interrupting one's writing to print out unfinished articles would defeat the object of using word processing. In any case, rekeying a long article, a complex program or an extensive data file is an error-prone chore.

So readers should know that disc disasters can usually be retrieved, and you don't need any programming skill to do it. Below I describe exactly how I retrieved an article from a faulty disc.

Users of disc-based computer systems may be aware of something called DFS: the Disc Filing System. This is just a program which takes care of storing and retrieving things on disc; it keeps track of where it has put things, what the files are called and keeps an orderly list of files in the catalogue or directory.

HOME USER

When all is well, the user doesn't need to worry about any of this. However, if things go wrong, the DFS may return ominous messages like "DISC FAULT 18 AT 12 08" when you try to save or load a file. This might just mean there is a speck of dust on the surface of the disc, or that one tiny bit of your file has been lost. But it means that to get your file back you will have to by-pass the DFS.

Again, if you tell the DFS to delete a file by mistake, you should know that it has not actually been removed from the disc. It's just that the DFS removes it from the catalogue. Attempts to load it through the DFS will fail because the DFS no longer knows where to find that file. But if you can by-pass the DFS you may find it completely intact. Indeed while looking for my article I found all sorts of other things which I thought I had deleted months ago, a sort of dream-like jumbled electronic memory.

How can you by-pass the DFS? I used a remarkable program from Computer Concepts called DISC DOCTOR which comes packaged with 19 other useful programs on a chip now permanently plugged into my BBC Micro. It costs just £25.

The morning I lost my article I would gladly have paid double that just to get it back. With other faults, different disc systems and other recovery programs, the details of what follows will vary, but the principles are the same.

First you have to find out where your file starts on the disc and where it finishes. Then you load these sectors (as the subdivisions are called) directly into your computer's memory, edit them (if you want to remove any garbage, repetition or bits that don't belong) and then save the file afresh.

Specifically, when my file wouldn't load I used "INFO" to find its length and where it was on the disc. Unfortunately the BBC tells you these numbers in hex (base 16), so the next stage is to convert them into base 10 numbers; you can get the BBC to do this for you by typing "PRINT &" before the hex number.

Then I typed "RECOVER" (the DISC DOCTOR command for recovering information directly from the surface of the disc) followed by the starting point, the number of sectors, then the number 3000 and finally the number 0. This last simply tells the system that I've only got one disc drive. The 3000 is just a convenient address in the computer's memory to put the file while you have a look at it.

Now comes the thrilling bit. A program called MZAP gives you a window into the interior of your micro's memory. Typing "MZAP 3000" starts you at address 3000, but you can wander around freely inside the memory. Having just "RECOVERed" my file, I could see the text in blocks of eight characters (letters and space) together with the hex numbers used to represent each character in the computer's memory. So I verified that I had what I wanted (and did a little editing at the same time), and simply saved the new file by typing "SAVE NEWFILE 3000".

The whole process need only have taken ten minutes, had I not become so fascinated by MZAP. By going higher up the memory I found I could look at the program which was actually running: I felt like an electronic voyeur, trespassing on my micro's inner recesses.

Sometimes I found numbers changing frantically as I scrolled up and down the memory - doubtless causing further frenzied microelectronic representations elsewhere. There's something spooky about this kind of recursion - as if you could read the contents of your own brain - including your reactions to the revelation.



Swiss contract for Scicon

Britain's Scicon, a subsidiary of BP, has won a significant contract in Switzerland with a new generation of message-switching systems. Radio Suisse, which provides private telecommunications services, has installed Scicon's new Text & Data Exchange in Bern, which will offer a private network service called Datacare III to Swiss organisations.

Scicon's software allows message-switching systems based on its new exchange to be custom-designed to users' needs. The company believes the new TD Exchange system will be used by large organisations looking for sophisticated

message switching. They allow terminals and computers to be connected to telex and telephone networks, as well as to host computers. Up to 30 fully independent networks can be operated through a single exchange.

Radio Suisse sees Datacare III as a big step forward. "We aim to be a European leader in private network services by providing a gateway for international private telecommunications," said Pierre von Niederhauser, manager of the company's consulting and engineering group.

The Swiss service will use three DEC PDP 11/44 and three

DEC PDP 11/70 minicomputers. It will be able to support 500 lines and 70 separate customer networks.

Scicon was chosen to provide the software - which is alone worth £200,000 - from among 11 other tendering organisations.

"We're offering the benefits of a tailored solution using packaged software," explained Penny Jackson, manager of Scicon's message-switching division. "And we're using that software not only to provide message switching but as a mechanism to combine data processing and communications."

Million-pound software tool

By Paul Walton

The obscure art of constructing computer systems could become as simple and as reliable as civil engineering, says a pioneering software house that has developed the first tools which embody the new discipline of "software engineering".

The first software tool will apply a computer workstation to constructing computer systems for the first time, and will cost Imperial Software Technology a million pounds to develop after two years of planning how to do it.

John Parker is the principal consultant at IST, which was set up a year ago close by Imperial College in order to "develop the first ever disciplined approach to building a system using the computer, and going beyond the artisan, rather seat-of-the-pants approach used today".

He added that software tools would do away with the trial and error which programmers and analysts now go through to get a system working, and would eventually make it easy enough for anybody to apply

their computer without detailed understanding of how it works.

The company was backed to the tune of £750,000 last October by Plessey, Nalwest, P.A. Management Consultants and Imperial College itself after the head of computer science there, Professor Lehmann, had the idea of putting software engineering theory into commercial practice.

IST has so far attracted just over two dozen such experienced specialists from British software houses and has laid the ground rules for future prod-

ucts, helped by profitable consultancy work for some very prestigious organisations.

Parker said that work is just beginning on the first software tool, an expert system along the lines of those which the Government's Alvey collaborative research and development project was charged with producing. IST will work with other computer firms, but it has chosen to apply for a massive £300,000 grant from an existing commercial software aid scheme in order to get off to a quick start and hold on to its world lead.

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Your future with Logica

In fourteen years Logica has become one of Europe's leading companies in real-time computing, communications and office automation, initiating new technological developments in each of these fields. Any company at the forefront of technology needs the constant injection of new ideas, new skills, new talents. Which is where you come in. Outlines of our current career opportunities are listed below. If you want to be involved in an exciting, dynamic environment, and reap the rewards such involvement brings, this advertisement is aimed at you.

Information Systems Consultants

Logica's Consultancy Group comprises a multi-disciplinary team working in Information Technology: our skills encompass communications, advanced office systems and marketing studies. We provide high level consultancy to both users and suppliers of Information Technology systems and services. We need people who have sound technical knowledge, good communications skills and the ability to work at all management levels, plus specific knowledge of computer strategy and office automation. If you are creative and commercially aware, we would like to meet you.

Salary: to £20,000 p.a.

Ref: ISC/CG/T

IBM Software Specialists

Our Finance Group serves banking and other financial institutions, where we play a major role in the development of new and enhanced systems for electronic funds transfer and decision support, especially in dealing rooms. To maintain our leading position we are seeking senior professionals with comprehensive IBM system experience, covering both mainframes and communications. You will be involved in a wide variety of assignments including system evaluation studies, systems design and implementation projects, complex networking and capacity management.

Salary: to £22,000 p.a.

Ref: ISS/FG/T

Real-time Systems Designers/Programmers

Our Industry Group supplies computer systems and related services to energy, public utilities and manufacturing companies. Applications cover industrial plant/process control systems and special purpose micro-based systems. We are looking for people with a good degree in Computing, Maths, Science or Engineering and 2-5 years experience of real-time systems implementation, preferably using DEC/BP/microcomputers. Experience in real-time data acquisition and control systems, technical microprocessor applications, data communications or manufacturing systems would be preferred.

Salary: to £13,000 p.a.

Ref: RSP/IG/T

Real-time Software Designers

Our Technical Group works on projects in defence and emergency services, both in the UK and overseas. You will need at least 4 years real-time software experience, preferably gained in a thorough quality assurance environment, a record of successful software design and, ideally, team leadership ability. You should also be experienced in communications software, computer networks, real-time microsystems or fault tolerant systems.

Salary: to £15,000 p.a.

Ref: BSD/TG/T

Senior Analyst Programmers

Logica Special Projects is a small select team of senior staff who secure and execute large and complex software projects.

A new major project has just commenced in Baghdad, Iraq, developing a national distributed banking system. We are now seeking analyst programmers and senior analyst programmers to join our project management team there. The experience required is Honeywell Level 6, database management and transaction processing.

An attractive overseas package is offered.

Ref: SAP/SP/T

Senior Designers/Project Managers

Our Communications Group serves a wide spectrum of industries, from telecommunications, broadcasting and computing to the travel and transport sector and central government.

We seek staff with micro and mini project management experience, capable of deputising for the Divisional Manager in commercial and sales roles. You should be familiar with one or more of the following: real-time control systems, colour graphic systems and communications software.

We also require mainframe application designers who have held senior design responsibility in teams of 10 or more in a mainframe implementation environment (IBM or similar).

Salary: to £20,000 p.a.

Ref: SD/CG/T

Prospects for the right people are unparalleled. The company offers excellent working facilities in a professional, challenging environment, and a generous benefits package including assistance with relocation where applicable.

We have indicated some of the positions available, but there are other opportunities. If your own discipline is not listed do not hesitate to contact us.

Please write with full CV and quoting relevant reference number to: Julia Hall, LOGICA, 64 Newman Street, London, W1R 4SE, or telephone 01-634 5454.

logica

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and
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City Office
200 Gray's Inn Road
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Telephone 01-537 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 885.3 down 4.5
FT 100 Index 81.43 down 0.17
FT All Shares 428.87 down 2.06
Bargains: 17,402
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 92.99 down 0.01
New York Dow Jones
Average 1238.11 down 10.95
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9,260.18 down 58.82
Hongkong Hang Seng
Index 787.79 down 17.13
Amsterdam 147.8 down 0.5
Sydney: AO Index 682.8
down 5.8
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index 999.5 down 0.5
Brussels General Index
124.77 down 0.48
Paris: CAC Index 139.9
down 0.2
Zurich: SKA General 229.4
down 2.1

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling
Index 83.6 up 0.3
DM 3.912
FF 11.950
Yen 360.25
Dollar
Index 128.3 up 0.7
DM na

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.5007
ECU \$0.571123
SDR 20.709329

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week
fixed 9½-9
3 month interbank 9½-9½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9½-9½
3 month DM na
3 month FF na

US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9½
Treasury long bond 102½-102½
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period September 7 to
October 4, 1983 inclusive:
9.719 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$396.25 pm \$394.50
close \$396 (264.25)
New York latest: \$397
\$407.75 (264.25)
\$407.75-409.25 (272-273)
Sovereigns (mint):
\$392.25-404.25 (262-263)
*Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interim: English National
Investment Co, First Charlotte
Assets, Francis Industries,
Hamilton Oil Great Britain,
Kwik-Fit (Tyres & Exhausts)
Holdings, OK Bazaars (1929),
Richardsons-Westgarth
(amended), Runman (Walter),
"The Times" Veneror Co,
Vanbrugh Currency Fund,
Vase Group.
Finals: Fairview Estates,
Peachey, New Australia Investment
Trust, Samuel Properties,
Economic Statistics, New
vehicles registrations (Sep-
tember).

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Amalgamated Estates, Great
Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street,
EC2 (10.30).
Apex Properties, 243/247
Pavilion Road, Sloane Square,
SW1 (noon).
Associated Dairies Group,
Headingley Pavilion, St
Michael's Lane, Leeds (2.30).
Fashion & General Investment,
The Great Eastern Hotel,
Liverpool Street, EC2 (noon).
Fleming Overseas Investment
Trust, F & O Building, Leaden-
hall Street, EC3.
Imry Property Holdings, Con-
naught Rooms, Great Queen
Street, WC2 (noon).
A. J. Worthington (Holdings),
Portland Mills, Leek Staffs
(11.00).
Ramar Textiles, Hyde Park
Hotel, SW7 (noon).

NOTEBOOK

Highland Distilleries Company
reports a 23 per cent increase in
annual profits from \$5.7m to
\$7.1m. A final dividend of 2.25p
is being proposed raising the total
for the year from 2.85p to 3.2p. The
company plans to resume pro-
duction at its Burnside distillery
on Islay which has been
mothballed for two years, for a
limited period during 1984.

WEST GERMANY yesterday
warned the EEC that it was
prepared to begin to keep out
unfairly subsidised steel im-
ports. It also hinted that it could
block reform of the EEC budget
if something was not done
quickly to stop what it believes
is dumping on its markets.

Takeover highlights British protests to EEC to open up foreign insurance markets

Eagle Star demands Monopolies
inquiry to fend off Allianz

By Andrew Connolly and Ian Murray

Eagle Star Holdings will this week demand a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation of the £692m takeover attempt by West German insurer, Allianz Versicherungs.

The Eagle Star board will call for an investigation at a meeting with officials from the Office of Fair Trading. The aim would be to thwart the bid before the first closing date of the Allianz takeover offer on November 12.

Under Government competition rules, the OFT must produce a recommendation to Mr. Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, on whether to refer a qualifying takeover bid for investigation by the Monopolies Commission before the first closing date of the takeover offer.

The Allianz bid of 500p per share for Eagle Star qualifies for investigation because it represents a transfer of assets of more than £15m.

The Government is believed to be considering increasing the asset qualification for investigation of a merger from £15m to £25m to help reduce the workload of the OFT which typically examines 200 cases each year.

Of these about 5 per cent have been referred to the Monopolies Commission in recent years.

Eagle Star will argue that the bid should be investigated as a means of resolving the wider problem faced by British insurers who find it almost impossible to trade on equal terms with local companies in the West German insurance market.

At a meeting in Luxembourg of EEC finance ministers Britain pressed its unsuccessful eight-year-old case for the opening of a common insurance market for the Community.

A number of court cases have been opened by the Commission against West Germany and France for refusing

to allow the liberalization of services as laid down by the Treaty of Rome. And Britain has an obvious financial interest in wanting to see this happen.

Yesterday Mr. Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, told the other finance ministers that the failure to agree on an insurance directive was "unacceptable". He was not prepared to accept a watered down version of the paper, as had been suggested by West Germany.

"It's got stuck in the mud for far too long," Mr. Lawson said.

British insurers are angry that a West German company like Allianz can take advantage of the freedom of the London financial market to effect a takeover when it is almost impossible for British companies to buyout insurance companies in West Germany, and other EEC countries.

EEC rules dictate that there should be complete freedom of trade within the community.

The Trade Department considering a number of obstacles to trade unveiled by the Committee on Invisible Exports in its investigation of barriers to trade within the EEC and will present a package of proposals to the next meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in a year.

Mr. Tony Ratcliffe, chief executive of Eagle Star, said yesterday that he would certainly be urging the OFT to refer the bid for his company for investigation by the Monopolies Commission.

The Eagle Star board look certain to delay publication of a full-blown defence document against the Allianz bid so that it can concentrate its energies on winning Government support for the investigation. However, Allianz will point to an earlier investigation by the Office of Fair Trading and the European Commission which cleared its acquisition of 28 per cent of Eagle Star's shares in 1981.

Mesa still buying
Gulf shares

By Derek Pain

Mesa Petroleum, of Texas is continuing to buy shares in Gulf Oil Corporation as the US oil group struggles to avoid a widely-expected takeover bid.

Mesa, acting with associates, now has at least 10.8 per cent of Gulf, although some sources suggest the figure is about 11.5 per cent.

The Amarillo company, headed by Mr. Boone Pickens, has amassed a \$1,100m (£735m) credit to buy Gulf stock. At the 10.8 per cent mark it has spent \$791m.

Mr. Pickens said yesterday that his stake may not be "passive".

Gulf, one of the world's biggest oil companies, confirmed that it has arranged a \$4,000m credit line. The package, which Gulf say will be used for "general corporate purposes" was arranged by National Westminster Bank and Bankers Trust.

A full offer for Gulf would

have to be pitched at about \$6,700m to stand a chance.

The Mesa consortium, which includes the Canadian Belzberg family and a Texas oil group called Wagner and Brown, may not attempt a bid. But its Gulf share stake would be a crucial factor in any takeover action and could be sold at a handsome profit to any other interested party.

Mr. Pickens may also be attempting to obtain a big enough shareholding to wrest management control of Gulf.

In December Gulf intends to set up a holding company in Delaware which will allow it to end its cumulative voting system which gives each share as many votes as there are directors.

Under cumulative voting dissident shareholders can win a boardroom seat with as little as 7 per cent of the outstanding stock.

Review hits
Burnett
shares

By Our Financial Staff

Shares of Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings, the open-cast mining and property group, plunged by 50p to 218p on the Stock Exchange yesterday on fears that the group's run of 15 consecutive years of record profits is coming to an end.

The profits scare follows the completion of a review of the group's operations by the new chairman, Mr. Eric Grayson, who took over from Mr. George Helsby, when he retired last month for health reasons.

Mr. Grayson said that all divisions of the group are trading profitably, although in some cases at a lower level than in the previous year.

He has planned a series of meetings with key institutional shareholders this week to explain the present trading position.

Last year, the group made pre-tax profits of £30m against £21.1m the previous year. However, analysts are now expecting a downturn in profits in the current year to next March.

Last night, Mr. Grayson said that the share price setback was totally inexplicable.

Brengreen
bid claim
attacked

By Wayne Lintott

Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank advisers to Sunlight Services, yesterday disputed claims that Brengreen (Holdings) was close to winning its £36m takeover battle for Sunlight.

Brengreen had said that support for its bid was running at 30 per cent including purchases in the market of 7.2 per cent.

Brengreen can buy a further 7.8 per cent of Sunlight before its bid closes tomorrow afternoon.

Kleinwort said that Brengreen was in breach of its takeover code and renewed its attack upon Brengreen.

It criticized the lack of any profit forecast in Brengreen's offer and the purchase of 100,000 Brengreen shares by Morgan Grenfell and questioned which company had the stronger share price.

Britannic Assurance did not own any Sunlight shares, Kleinwort said, and the big international shareholders were Throymorton Trust with 7 per cent and a subsidiary of BEI with 6.1 per cent.



Professor Gower: report soon

Gower to
favour self
regulation

By Philip Robinson

The results of Professor Jim Gower's two-year study of how Britain protects its investors will be passed to the Department of Trade and Industry within five weeks.

His report is unlikely to recommend that an American-style Securities and Exchange Commission be set up in the United Kingdom's financial markets, but should favour these markets governing themselves, with the Department of Trade and Industry having the legal power to encourage the slow or reluctant.

Professor Gower, a part-time adviser on company law, was appointed by the Department in July 1981 to review the system of protection for investors following the spectacular collapse of several investment advisers leaving huge losses for their clients.

Since then a new association of investment advisers has been formed which promises a compensation fund for clients and similar funds are promised by the commodity markets. The Stock Exchange already has such a fund which compensates investors in the event of a stockbroker's collapse.

Professor Gower had intended to attach to his report a draft Bill detailing legislation to back the changes he feels necessary. This will now follow early next year.

The professor ran into problems with the EEC on insurance, and had to postpone recommendations concerning the Stock Exchange as it became clear it would no longer need to defend its rule book before the Restrictive Practices Court.

Telerate sets \$20m
profit record

By Our Financial Staff

Telerate, the British-owned, but New York-based financial news service reported record profits and earnings yesterday.

Mr. Neil Hirsch, the chief executive, said un-audited results for the year ended September 30 showed net income up 80 per cent to \$20m (£13.3m) or 43 cents (32p) a share on annual gross earnings of \$61.7m (£41.1m), up 61 per cent.

Mr. Hirsch was speaking at the American Electronic Association's Monetary Conference in the United States. (In London, Mr. John Gunn, chairman of both Telerate and Exco International, its largest shareholder, said that sales in Britain were doing "superbly well" and sales overall were running at a highly satisfactory level.

Telerate has just received a cash injection of \$10m from the establishment of a new company with AP-Dow Jones, which should enable it to begin fully realizing its potential this year, Mr. Gunn added.

He said that the figures did not reflect profitability accurately because many of the 4,700 installations made in the year did not contribute a full year's profit as customers paid monthly.

Mr. Gunn said that Telerate had suffered from the lack of a suitable infrastructure organization in Europe, but the new company will provide the distribution and servicing facilities necessary for it to compete more effectively.

Reuters, Telerate's main competition, had 15 times more customers and usually clients ended up taking both services rather than replacing one with the other, Mr. Gunn said. The two companies were not in direct competition, although Mr. Gunn admitted Reuters had opened a lot of doors for Telerate.

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Nissan 'assembly plan'

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The president of Nissan of Japan, Mr. Takashi Ishihara, confirmed in Tokyo yesterday that the company's proposed British operation could initially be only an assembly plant for imported parts and components.

Nissan's original proposal, made almost three years ago, was to make cars in Britain with 60 per cent British or EEC content, rising to 80 per cent when the total output of 200,000 cars a year was reached.

But uncertainties over the strength of European car market and disputes with the unions and on the board of Nissan have caused the plans to be modified.

Mr. Ishihara, returning from a visit to the company's largest overseas plant in Tennessee, said he now hoped to be able to persuade the company's Japanese workers to accept the project.

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City Editor's Comment

Learning to live
with outsiders

The Royal Lancaster Hotel in London plays host today to a conference on "Self Regulation, and the City," at which most if not all the key figures in the changing investment scene will present a mixture of progress reports and opinions on the rapid evolution of London Securities markets.

The timing of the conference is appropriate for, after years of taking it for granted that self regulation was the natural, the efficient and the much to be preferred way to exercise restraint in the financial markets, there now exists in the City a more widely-held view that some form of statutory regulation is inevitable, and may even shortly become desirable.

Behind this change of heart lies the realization that the changes now in progress, and particularly those at the Stock Exchange, challenge the assumptions on which conduct in the City has always been based.

It has until now been a relatively closed community, where most of the principals knew one another, and where almost everybody was subject to pressure from their peers, or when that was occasionally to prove inadequate, from the Bank of England.

Such a system relies not simply on the basic honesty of the majority of people involved, but also on their having a common cultural background. They need to have a similar way of doing business, similar goals, and a similar preception of what is right or wrong in business.

If the Stock Exchange is opened up to outsiders, as seems increasingly inevitable, there will be a much greater presence in London of foreign securities firms - American, Japanese and European - all of whom have their own well-established ways of doing business.

These are not always the same as British ways, and sometimes the differences can be quite marked. Though these firms will be on their best behaviour and will do their best to adapt to the British market, it would be naive to expect the adjustment to be total.

It will not necessarily be a Securities and Exchange Commission on the American model - indeed one would hope it would not be - but it would nevertheless be a big step beyond self regulation.

In all this turmoil the need for an adequate system of investor protection is paramount. In the US it is done by law - though not always efficiently - so in this country as more organizations become qualified to sell to the public, then the pressure for specific legislation is sure to increase.

Bonn (Reuters) - Obstacles to a lasting economic recovery in industrialized countries remain large and growth rates will slow in some nations, according to West Germany's five leading economic research institutes.

In a regular autumn report they said only higher investment can bring a sustained upturn, but gloomy prospects for corporate sales and profits and continued high interest rates make this unlikely.

A significant easing of interest rates can be expected only when confidence returns that structural and debt problems are being overcome by sustained growth, but the report said, this is not likely to happen soon.

As the impetuses which have caused a rise in consumer spending and home building and a more optimistic situation in warehouse stock (levels) probably tail off, economic expansion will slow down following a particularly favourable summer this year," the institutes said. They added this would be especially true of the US.

Despite the expected slowdown, however, industrialized economies should show a gross national product rise averaging about a real 3 per cent year, they said. For this year a 2 per cent growth rate is forecast, after an 0.4 per cent fall last year.

But growth will be slower in Western Europe than the US and Japan, and unemployment will continue to rise in most countries.

The US economy should grow 4 per cent next year after 3 per cent this year with unemployment falling slightly and prices rising only marginally to an average 5 per cent annual rate.

Japan's export are likely to fall next year due to weaker US demand and a possible self-imposed export limits aimed at controlling the country's current surplus.

England keeps Highland buoyant

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Footballers should reflect on their loyalty

Mariner and Wark unhappy with Cabinet Ministers' salaries

It has taken Peter Osgood almost 20 years to recognize what many people knew when he was a lad: that he had too much money too soon. Osgood was a fine but controversial player for Chelsea and very nearly for England but is now reduced to the less than royal regions of downmarket Windsor Sunday football.

It would be wrong for one moment to suggest that Paul Mariner and John Wark, well established international players at Ipswich, are about to descend in to the same financial, moral and emotional web of failure which has trapped Osgood, but it must be hoped that they will pause to consider just how fortunate their life really is.

They are, give or take a fender or so, earning approximately £50,000 a year in basic wages and bonuses, excluding their international match fees. Although, absurdly, this is only a weekly rate of one eleventh of what Jo Durie, a not yet brilliant lady tennis player, has just received for losing a tournament at Brighton, Mariner and Wark are demanding more, even though a crowd of less than 15,000 saw fit to pay to watch they had to offer against Leicester on Sunday.

Wark, who is 28 and has scored some 100 goals in 300 matches, which is why he is paid as well as he is, says he will continue to do his best for the club but has to "look after the interests of his family". Someone should hurry to point out to him that this includes living a stable, contented life in Suffolk among those people who have been his neighbours and companions since he was an unheralded apprentice.

Mariner, who receives more in a week than did Tommy Lawton in a year for doing the same job rather better, is 30 and like Wark has benefited as much from what Ipswich have done for him since he arrived from Plymouth as the club has gained from his ability. He and Wark are paid Cabinet Ministers' salaries by a sensibly organized club and are both on unexpired contracts which they presumably signed without coercion.

What has happened, no doubt as so often over the years, is that on recent international trips with England and Scotland they have discovered what Bryan Robson, say, is being paid by Manchester United and Charlie Nicholas by Arsenal. That may well mean that Ipswich are the

sensible club, but suddenly the players are discontented.

The should be recommended to sit down and reflect about Lawton and Osgood, about the 200 players in the League who are not on contracts at all, about the hundreds who have been made redundant in recent years. If any club in the country has cause to expect loyalty from its players - and many have none - then one of them is Ipswich.

Fortunately neither the manager, Bobby Ferguson, nor chairman Patrick Cobbold, are in any mood to relent. Mr Cobbold said yesterday: "We cannot afford what they are asking. They are very well paid, and we cannot give away what we haven't got. I'm not going to be pushed by them or by anyone else. It seems neither wants to leave, and that they are otherwise happy - and they under contract."

It is to be hoped that both of them will get back to the business of playing as well as they can for the salary they negotiated: and try to understand that what they have received at Ipswich cannot necessarily be measured in money.

David Miller



John Wark

Charlton Athletic in pole position for extinction

Thousands lost and £401 collected

One of these days, a football club is actually going to close down. We have been getting harder to stories about clubs on the verge of closure, reading that the bulldozers are lining up outside various famous gates, and then learning the next day that, through some incomprehensible shuffling of pieces of paper and a ritual chanting of the word "consortium", the club will continue playing after all.

It begins to become clear that the normal rules of business do not apply to football clubs; at least there is simple evidence that lots of club directors sincerely believe this. Football clubs seem to revel in dancing cheek to cheek with the Great Reaper and leaping clear as he swings his scythe. But it cannot always be thus.

Swansea and Charlton Athletic are both on the front of the grid in the self-destruction grand prix, and by one of life's little ironies, they played a football match together on Saturday. It was a draw, Charlton, however, are probably

in pole position so far as extinction goes.

Not that Swansea are without a chance. They need £400,000 to pay off a rather insistent Barclays Bank, have debts of £1.5m and are losing £10,000 a week. They are staging a grand clearance sale of players, with Latchford, Walsh, Curtis, Stanley and Robinson, all slightly soiled but still saleable, on the counter. Kennedy is available for nothing.

But Charlton's woes are yet more horrendous. Their supporters' club had a collection for the club that raised £401 on Saturday, which is a bit like facing a herd of charging elephants with a pea-shooter.

Mark Hulley, chairman of the club for 16 months and the poorest, he says, by £200,000 for his pains, has resigned, and the announcement was made after the match. He confided to the press that he was gutted.

But the eviscerated Mr Hulley remains a director, along with the new chairman, Richard Collins, and a chap called Chief

Francis Nzeribe, who has not been heard of since March.

Charlton's former chairman, Michael Gliksten, has a bankruptcy petition on Mr Hulley and a winding up order on Charlton Athletic. He says he is owed £300,000. The date for the hearing is November 24. Mr Hulley will underwrite the wage bill till then: after that the club either gets taken over and survives, or it does not. The new chairman talked about four consorts, as well as individuals, as possible buyers, and that could mean anything or nothing.

Mr Hulley's shares - and he owns 100 per cent - are ready to be bought, and they are going cheap. The snag is that the lucky buyer would have the slight problem of paying off the club's debts - £600,000 or so. Both Mr Hulley and Mr Collins are ready to stand down if required to.

It cannot be said that Mr Hulley's reign has been brilliant. His most public folly was

bringing over the Danish player, Allan Simonsen, who, for reasons best known to himself, left Barcelona for Charlton. It never even smelled like a clever idea, and Mr Hulley's expectation that Simonsen's presence would instantly treble the gates and thereby pay the player's wages was, unsurprisingly, unfulfilled. Simonsen left and Mr Hulley doesn't look like a permanent fixture himself.

"My life and soul are in this club," he said with that cautious understatement so typical of the man. "I've always put my money where my mouth is, but at the end of the day, I haven't got enough money."

Mr Collins spent it out: unless a buyer with pots and pots of money to pay off the debts, has asked for a transfer. "I inquired about him before the start of the season when I was told he was not available. But if the position has changed, I will make further inquiries," he said.

Cyrille Regis will be fit to lead Albion's attack in tonight's match at the Hawthorns, where Millwall start with a three-goal lead from the first leg.

Regis fell heavily on his shoulder and had to be substituted during Saturday's game at Coventry, but

Simon Barnes



A choice of turnstiles and police protection for the lone spectator about to join the exasperated and the resigned on Charlton's terraces. (Photographs: Ian Stewart.)



A choice of turnstiles and police protection for the lone spectator about to join the exasperated and the resigned on Charlton's terraces. (Photographs: Ian Stewart.)

WASPS AND WARRIORS let their rivalry boil over

In the last period of their game on Sunday Whitley Warriors' and Warrington Wasps' fierce local rivalry flared into a prolonged brawl. Players were expelled to the penalty box and one was carried off unconscious. "He's a marked man wherever he goes, but I think that's going a bit far," Tom Smith, the Warrington manager, said with a stinging understatement by the fact that the victim was his son, Paul Smith.

The number of penalty minutes per game has risen again this season, as players have become increasingly frustrated with a body of referees who are offered no authoritative guidance and little formal training. After a while, sanguinity becomes a necessary response.

This was the first British League premier division game of the season in England. The sponsors, Heiniken, can hardly be delighted with the outcome.

Durham were leading Whitley 9-3 when the brawl broke out. After order was restored, the referee sent off four players (Ross, Ord and Peter Smith, of Whitley, and Neil Campbell, of Durham) with match

Gresham's errors spoil irresistible pressure

Overcoming a hesitant start and some ferocious early pressure by Gresham's Rydal, thanks largely to a crisp day in brilliant sunshine at Colwyn Bay, Gresham's opened with a bravura that initially seemed irresistible. A scything rain by Davies added brought a try, and Lewis, at full back, and Luffkin, in the centre, regularly showed possession and enterprise.

Their outstanding player was the flanker, Talbot, who battled on tenaciously after disruption to their back row when the No 3 Sladden departed with an injured shoulder which necessitated a reshuffle.

Rydal were particularly well served by their tall No 3 Pary Jones, but the dedicated tackling of Hughes and Goldsmith was also a crucial factor.

Gresham's earned and early lead through a penalty by Davies but immediately a speculative chip by Owen was badly fumbled and Dine was quick to pick up appreciatively and drive over. Owen's first penalty,

RUGBY UNION

also for a high tackle, made it 7-3 at the interval, but Gresham's errors at half back and in back row defence were not enough to prevent a 14-10 victory for Rydal.

Shortly after half-time Wooler made ground down the right scrum followed lineout and Pary Jones was over for a classic No 8's try. Thereafter Davies's second penalty for Gresham's was followed by a 43 metre penalty for Rydal by Owen who also broke incisively before throwing a poor pass to his left almost on the Gresham's line. He could have scored himself but support was sadly lacking.

Rydal's victory was a triumph for Colwyn Bay, Gresham's opened with a bravura that initially seemed irresistible. A scything rain by Davies added brought a try, and Lewis, at full back, and Luffkin, in the centre, regularly showed possession and enterprise.

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